

202
1975

Việt nam







"Not rice only!"

"Today, a number of people in our sub-sector have run short of rice", reports a cadre. Hoang Tu Nghia, President of the People's Revolutionary Committee of Hai Chau Sector: "All right, it'll be solved immediately! But not rice only! We shall..."

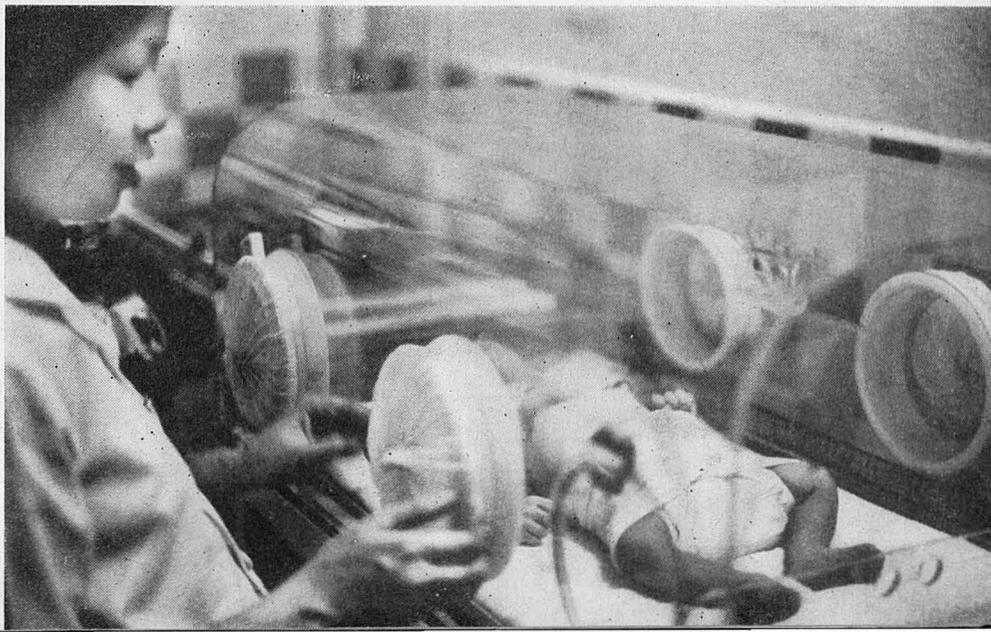
THANH DICH
and TRAN HQ

... reopen schools,



... and maternity homes, too,

THE rulers at the White House loudly announced that after the withdrawal of the Americans, South Viet Nam would be bathed in blood. According to AP, however, western correspondents who had stayed in South Viet Nam after its liberation acknowledged that there was no bloodbath — only South Vietnamese children surrounding Liberation combatants or turning the tanks left behind by Saigon puppet troops into their playthings. As for



the Da Nang population, all of them agree that had the arrival of the Liberation forces been delayed, within a few days, the whole city would have been ravaged through the looting and killing by the remnants of the puppet army. In late March 1975, Da Nang formed a huge pocket containing some three divisions of Saigon soldiers including those who had fled from other battlefields.

The revolutionary forces, however, had come in good time and the whole of Da

Nang had poured out into the streets to greet their liberators. People's revolutionary committees were set up. Here is a picture of one sector, that of Hai Chau in Quarter 1 in the centre of Da Nang.

A populated sector crossed by the main roads of the city - Hung Vuong, Doc Lap, Bach Dang, etc. - Hai Chau bustled day and night with life and movement. Markets, schools, hotels, port, were animated. But on the streets there still remained big

heaps of garbage; and worse still were the ubiquitous vestiges of an enslaving neo-colonialist culture and the depravation of a number of boys and girls. Nearly ten thousand people in the sector had been forced by the US-puppets into the precarious life of parasites. The spendthrift, crazed way of life of the mercenary troops who swarmed about the city had degenerated and the lives of many people had become tightly bound up with their gloomy destiny.

What has been the policy of the people's revolutionary power in Hai Chau in face of such a situation. Its activities in the first days after liberation were primarily limited to the maintenance of security and order, the stabilization of the people's life, the fight against the enemy's obscurantist culture... Much is still to be done, but as "loyal servants of the people", they will continue to carry out their untiring service.



... supply rice directly to the inhabitants,

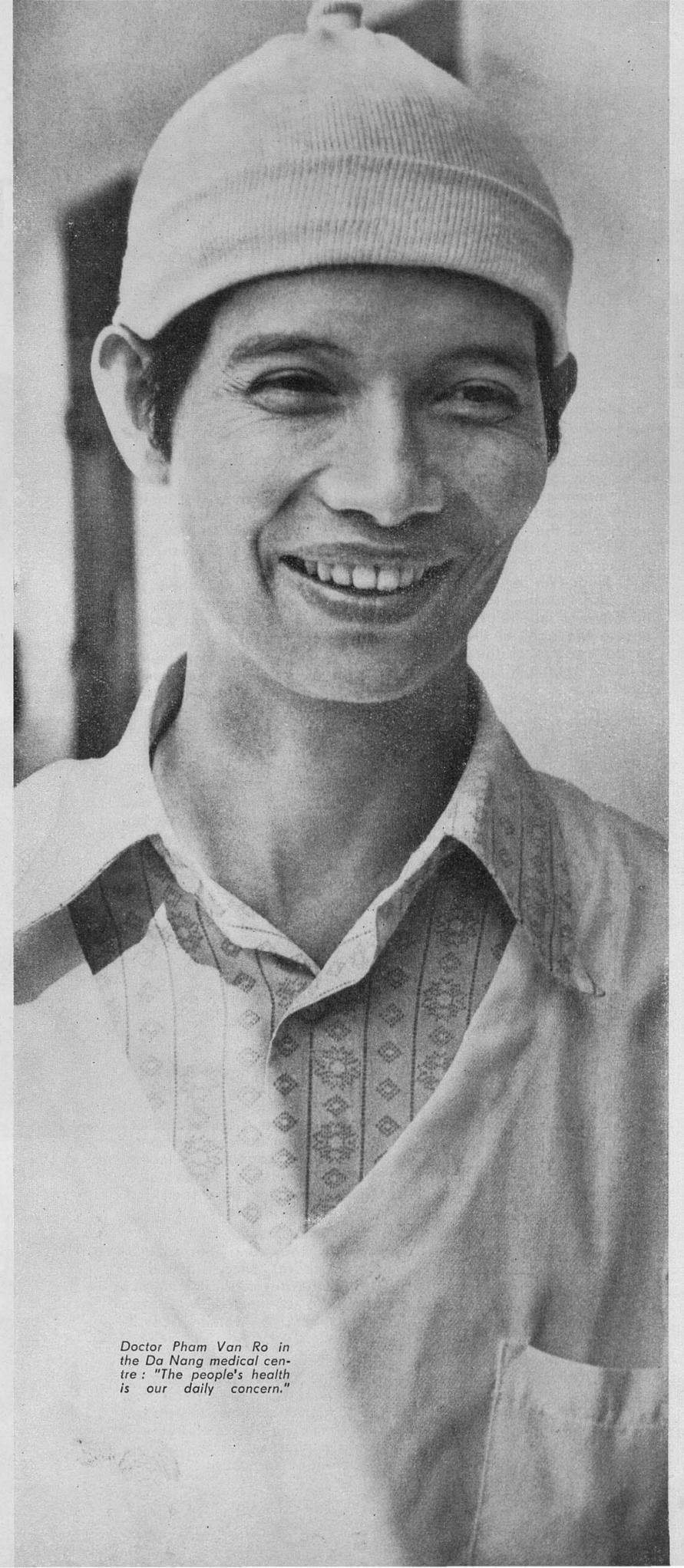
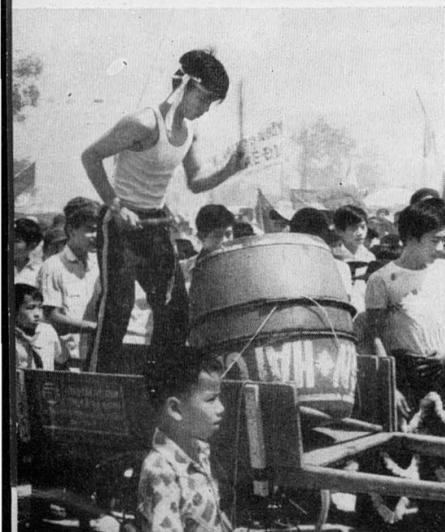


... urge the youth to fight depraved neo-colonialist culture,

... and see to it that the population can have books and periodicals at hand,

... that believers can go to pagodas and churches...

... and the youth can see new films.



Doctor Pham Van Ro in the Da Nang medical centre: "The people's health is our daily concern."

THE NEW MASTERS OF THE MILL

LE BA



The new masters of the mill started working on 2 May 1975.

NEVER before had there been such a lively and joyful meeting at the mill. The newly-elected trade union organization of the mill was holding a rally to mark the birthday anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh. An emulation drive was also launched to encourage initiative in all fields so as to ensure the right of the workers to be masters of the mill and a quick return to normal production.

Nguyen Thi Chanh was head of the production brigade and vice-president of the trade union. To the visiting journalists she said, "Only two days after the liberation of Saigon, our mill resumed production." A pause and a smile, then she added, "Only now can we call the mill our own. How happy we all are. What a big change the revolution has brought to our lives!"

As she showed us over the mill, she told us that the mill had belonged to the Thieu administration and its general director had shown a clean pair of heels at liberation and that self-defence units led by two underground cadres had, together with cadres of the Military Management Committee, put the mill "under seal" and protected its equipment. As a result, SICOVINA was the first textile mill to return to normal activity.

The mill lies in Thu Duc district, along the Saigon - Bien Hoa expressway. More than one thousand workers, most of them women, work in four shops: yarn, weaving, dyeing, and finishing. Under the US-puppet rule, oppressed by the management and the secret police, deceived by the reactionary trade union the workers saw their livelihood constantly threatened. They staged go-slows, strikes, put forward wage and other claims, opposed arbitrary dismissals, supported

similar actions by workers in other undertakings...

At the yarn shop, we talked to Do Thi Hoa, a warp-threader. She said, "Formerly I threaded a maximum of 3,000 warps a day. Since liberation, I have been making 3,500. When you work for your own interests, it's different from when you worked for a boss, isn't it?"

Hoa spoke with a gentle Go Vap accent and her smile showed the joy of someone who knew that she had become mistress of her mill and her destiny.

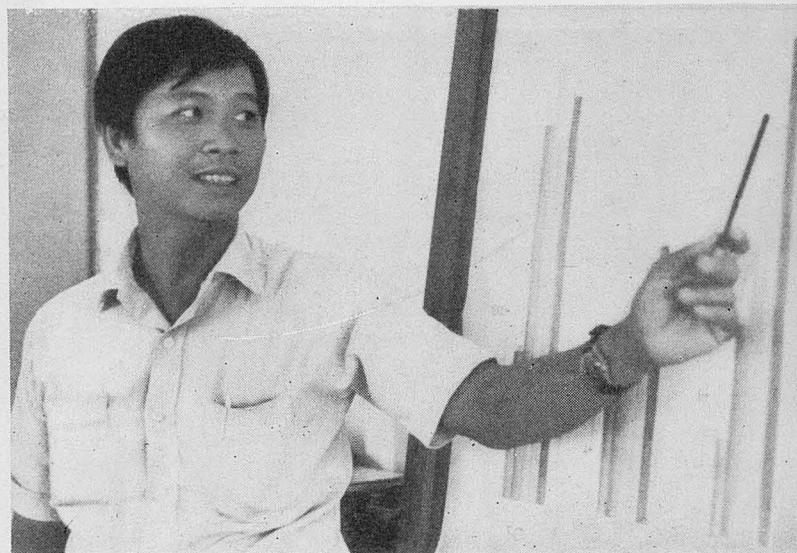
At the weaving shop, the looms made a tremendous din: 400 Sakamoto machines and 70 Draper machines were operated by attractive and nimble young women workers. With two shifts, - one shift for the first few days - the daily output of the mill has risen to more than 20,000 metres of fabric of various kinds; satin, poplin, tartan, calico...

What used to be the "monopoly" of the mill was not, however, the quality of the fabrics but the standards of the dyeing.

Tran Thanh Thuy, a chemical worker and now president of the mill trade union, was especially proud of the black anilin dyeing done in his shop. The dyeing apparatus looked fairly impressive. White cloth was dyed indigo blue, then dark grey and finally black.

As we toured the shops, Chanh, Thuy and other trade union cadres often stopped to talk with workers about various problems connected with work or living and working conditions.

The seething activity going on and the enthusiasm shown by the workers made us all feel certain that in a not-too-distant future the pre-liberation figure of eight million metres of cloth per year will be surpassed!



Thang (right) and Kinh (middle) actively protected the mill and prevented the Thieu administration from taking away equipment.



In the weaving shop, Tran Thi Thanh (right) was among the first to return to work.

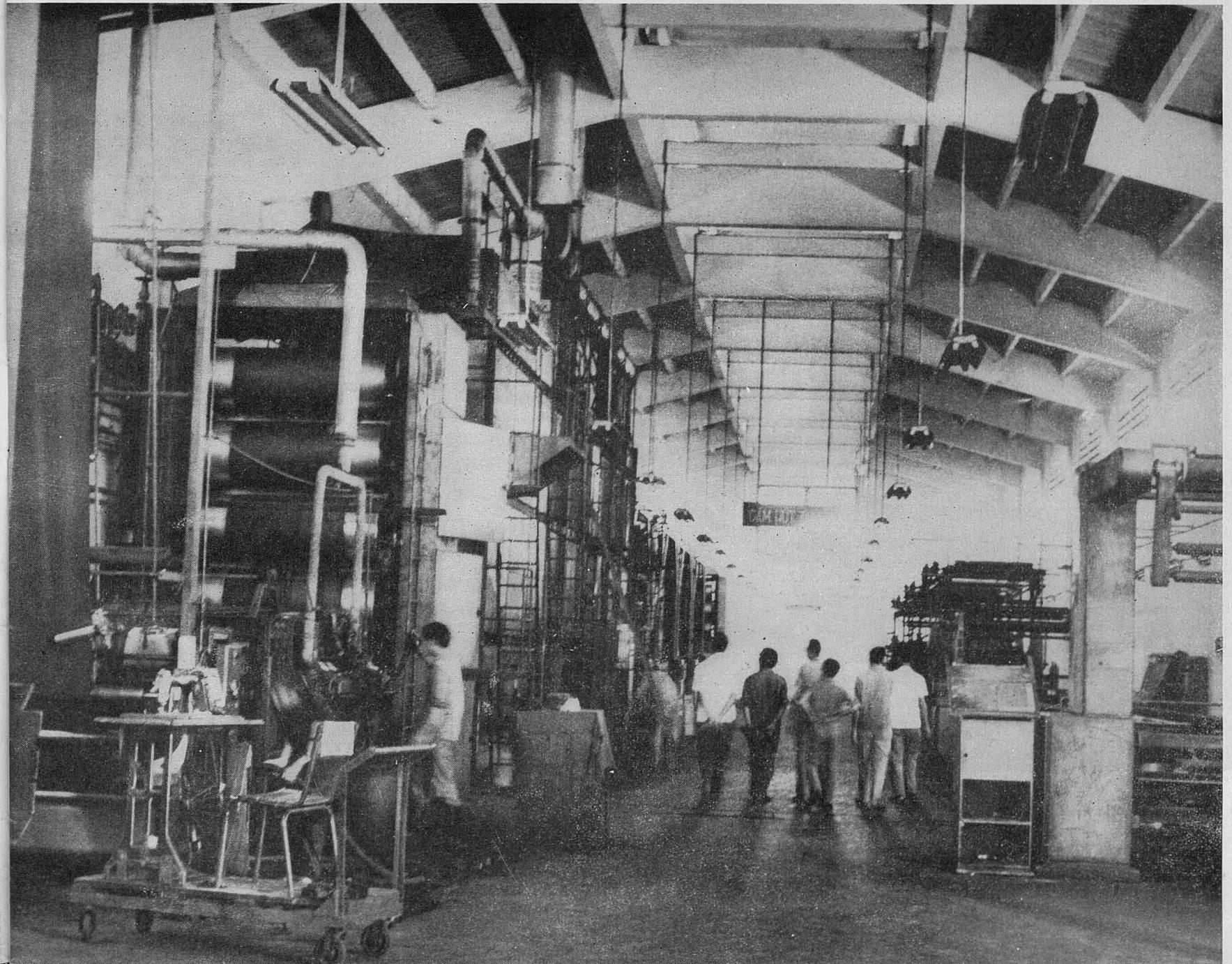




Tran Thanh Thuy, President of the new Trade Union Organization at the mill, presents the production plan.

Nguyen Thi Chanh, Vice-President of the new Trade Union Organization of the mill (left) and Huynh Thi Kieu (right) talking during a break.

The equipment for anilin dyeing began operation right after liberation.





The Thien Mu pagoda in Hue.

Photo : TRAN CONG TUONG

MEETINGS — CO-OPERATION — FRIENDSHIP



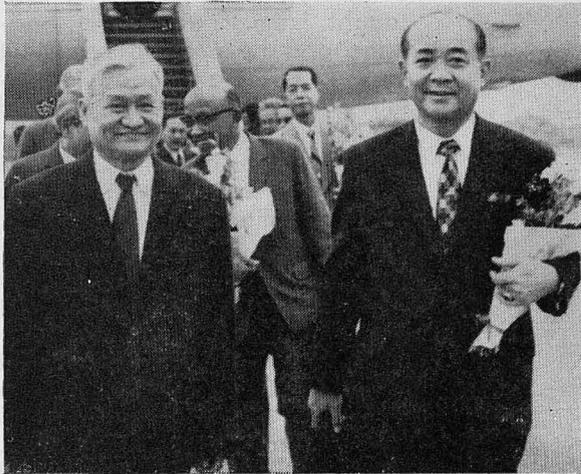
Truong Chinh, Chairman of the National Assembly Standing Committee of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam receives David George Wilson, the first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Australia in Viet Nam.

Photo : XUAN LAM



Premier Pham Van Dong receives Ms. Gertrud Sigurdsen, Sweden's Minister of International Co-operation for Development.

Photo : THE TRUNG



At Gia Lam airport, Tran Dang Khoa (left), Vice-chairman of the DRVN National Assembly Standing Committee, warmly welcomes the delegation of the National Political Council of Coalition of Laos headed by Prince Sisumang Sisaleumsak.

Photo : XUAN LAM

The 4th delegation of the International Commission of Inquiry into US crimes in Viet Nam headed by Hans Goran Franck, a Swedish lawyer and Secretary-General of the International Commission of Inquiry into US crimes in Indochina, meets with some victims of the US B.52 bombings against the Kham Thien quarter in Hanoi.

Photo : XUAN GIAI



FOREIGNERS' HANDBOOKS

OUR IMPRESSIONS ABOUT VIET NAM

The Mexican guests visit the Dai Dong Tailoring Co-operative in Hanoi.



Viet Nam's victory is very worthy of admiration. It deeply impresses us particularly since we have had the opportunity to live in your land during these moments. It is really hard for us to describe what we feel. We can only say that we are lucky indeed.

We know that the Vietnamese people have been very valiant in their protracted struggle against imperialism and its quislings, and have always been confident in their final victory.

We had had friendly relations with delegates of the Vietnamese women whom we used to meet at congresses of the International Union of Democratic Women and others we had seen in pictures, always smiling, optimistic and very lovely.

In your country, when the fire-crackers burst and the news of victory was announced from the loudspeakers, we and our friends of the Viet Nam Women's Union embraced one another

er crying. These were the most moving moments in our lives...

Back in Mexico, with our many new experiences, we shall not need to bring home the tidings of great victory because everybody there has been informed of them and is sharing that great joy. We shall bring home what we have witnessed in this country, the complete and final success of a whole nation, for many peoples have shed their blood in liberation struggles or revolutions and been robbed in the end of their achievements by a number of classes in society.

We want to tell the Vietnamese that their homeland is so marvellous and so is its people. All the Vietnamese people deserve our admiration, respect and love.

We pay deep respect to the Vietnamese people's noble heroism because we know that they have shed their blood for us too. Viet Nam is the hope of the peoples of the world in struggle against imperialism. She is the hope of history. Long live Viet Nam !

MARTHA L.P. DE TAMAYO and
ROSA L.B. DE CARRERA

President and Secretary-General
of the Mexico Women's Union



The war invalid Ly Hoa, Master of Science.

IN October 1953, a few minutes before the French-held post of My Long (Cai Lay district, My Tho province, South Viet Nam) was captured, a bullet of the garrison broke Ly Hoa's thigh, crushed the top end of his femur, and damaged his arteries.

After the signing of the Geneva Agreements of July 1954, the Liberation forces in the South were regrouped to the North. Ly Hoa was taken north on a plane together with other seriously wounded people's army men. He was so weak the doctors feared he would die on the way.

He survived. He spent altogether five years in hospital, three of them in complete immobility, and underwent over ten major operations.

One of his fellow-patients was Pham Hong Son, who had been so badly wounded he was completely paralysed. Yet, Son taught himself a foreign language and became so proficient he was able to engage in serious literary translation. He told Ly Hoa: "Even when seriously incapacitated, a fighter should remain a fighter with all his noble qualities."

Ly Hoa decided to follow Hong Son's admirable example. Although this was forbidden by his doctors, he borrowed general-education textbooks and studied all by himself. Often he spent as much as a week trying to solve a math problem.

In his last years in hospital he finished the math-physics-chemistry curriculum and part of the literature-history-geography curriculum of general-education school, from the 4th to the 10th grades. In November 1958 he was released from hospital and entered himself for the entrance examination to the Complementary Education School for Workers and Peasants. Of the nearly one hundred candidates admitted, he was ranked eighth.

After a year of intensive study to fill the gaps of his self-taught education, he entered the Physics department of Hanoi University. After his graduation four years later, he was retained at the department as an instructor.

In 1966 he was sent abroad for further studies. In spite of the cold weather of the country where he studied, which frequently caused his old wounds to throb with pain, besides his thesis subject, he made studies on the ultra-violet spectrum,

HE REMAINS A FIGHTER

A VOICE OF THE HEART

"... Then, on behalf of our people, I will go to the fraternal countries of the socialist camp and friendly countries in the whole world and thank them for their wholehearted support and assistance to our people's patriotic struggle against US aggression."

(Excerpt from President Ho Chi Minh's Testament)

IN the spirit of President Ho Chi Minh's Testament, a delegation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party and Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam headed by Le Duan, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the VNWP, paid official visits to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the People's Republic of China, the Hungarian People's Republic, the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, the Polish People's Republic and the Romanian Socialist Republic.

The voice of our hearts has impressed our brothers. Everywhere the Vietnamese delegates were given an exceptionally warm welcome by the Party and State leaders and people of the friendly countries, who highly praised Viet Nam's great victory in her anti-US struggle for national salvation and national reunification, and voiced their sympathy and support for Viet Nam's economic rehabilitation, for her healing the war wounds and socialist construction.

L. I. Brezhnev, Secretary General of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, declared : « I want to

emphasize most definitely that in your peaceful efforts aimed at building socialism, you can always rely on the support of Lenin's Party, and the Soviet homeland. Solidarity with Viet Nam has been, and still is, for the communists and all the people of the USSR a command of the heart and the mind, a way to show our Party's and people's unswerving loyalty to the principles of internationalism."

Teng Hsiao-ping, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Vice-Premier of the State Council of the PR of China, said : "The Chinese people have always treasured their revolutionary friendship with the Vietnamese people. To preserve and develop that friendship on the basis of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism is the common desire of our two peoples, which also conforms with their fundamental interests."

In their speeches welcoming our Party and Government delegation, Comrades Janos Kadar, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party ; Todor Zhikov, First Secretary of the CC of the Bulgarian Communist Party and Chairman of the State Council of the PR

of Bulgaria ; Erich Honecker, First Secretary of the CC of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany ; Gustav Husak, Secretary General of the CC of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and President of the Czechoslovak SR ; Edward Gierek, First Secretary of the CC of the Polish United Workers' Party ; and Nicolae Ceausescu, Secretary General of the Romanian Communist Party and President of the Romanian SR stressed that, like in the fiercest days of Viet Nam's resistance in the past, the peoples of the fraternal socialist countries will stand by the side of the Vietnamese people ; they will continue to support us materially and politically to help us heal the war wounds and to hasten socialist building, considering it as "a cause of the heart and a class duty."

When expressing thanks for that great help, our Party and Government delegation expressed our people's determination to contribute to the strengthening of the solidarity, singlemindedness and co-operation between the brotherly countries in the socialist camp ; to the common struggle of the people of the world for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress.

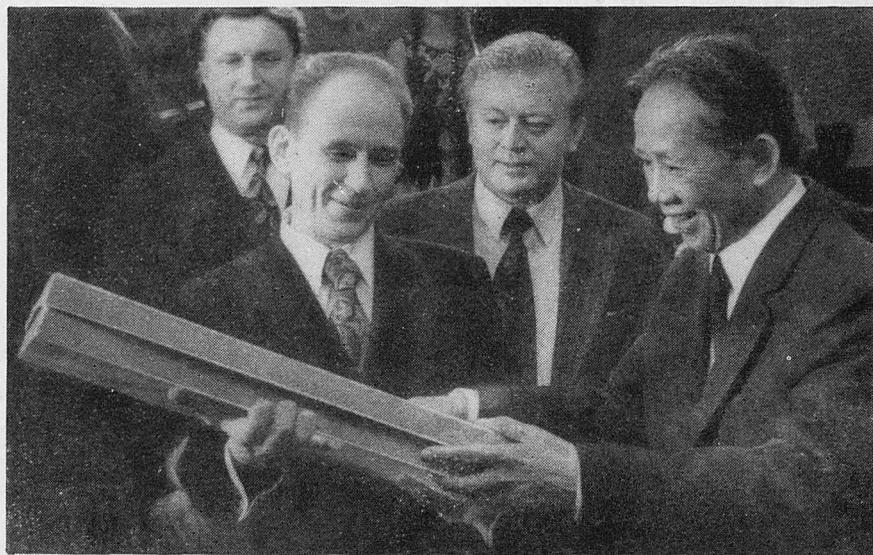


Photos : VAN BAO

Speaking about the situation and tasks of the Vietnamese people in this new revolutionary period, Le Duan said : "With the complete victory of the anti-US resistance for national salvation, 45 million Vietnamese people go into a new era, with the whole country fully independent and reunified and advancing towards socialism. Many difficulties still lie ahead as Viet Nam must overcome the very heavy consequences of colonialism and the 30-year-long war ; but her people are resolved to translate heroism in war into heroism in productivity and to make the best of the nation's natural riches in order to build their homeland into a prosperous and beautiful socialist country. The people of Viet Nam will contribute to the revolutionary cause of the peoples in Southeast Asia and the world, as desired by President Ho Chi Minh and themselves."

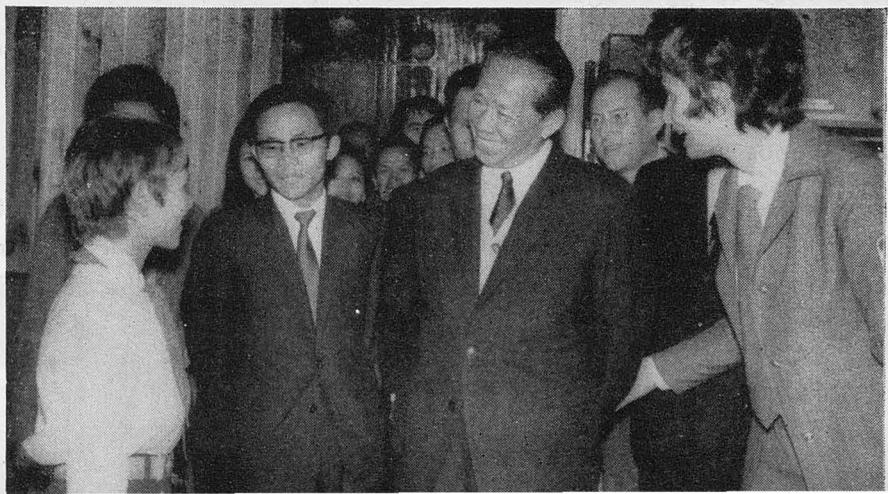
USSR

- ★ *L. I. Brezhnev warmly welcomes Le Duan at Vnukovo airport in Moscow.*
- ★ *At a vocational school in Moscow.*



HUNGARY

- ★ *Cordial reception at Budapest airport (front rank, left : Janos Kadar ; front rank, right : Le Duan).*
- ★ *The Vietnamese delegates visit the children's city at Zanka.*



CHINA

- ★ Chairman Mao Tsetung warmly receives Le Duan.
- ★ At the Peking Radio Factory.



BULGARIA

- ★ Todor Zhivkov and people in Sofia heartily welcome the delegation.
- ★ At a kindergarten in Sofia.



GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

- ★ Le Duan waves to people in Berlin coming to greet the delegation. On his left is Erich Honecker.
- ★ Cordial contacts with the workers at the Buna Chemical Works in the county of Halle.



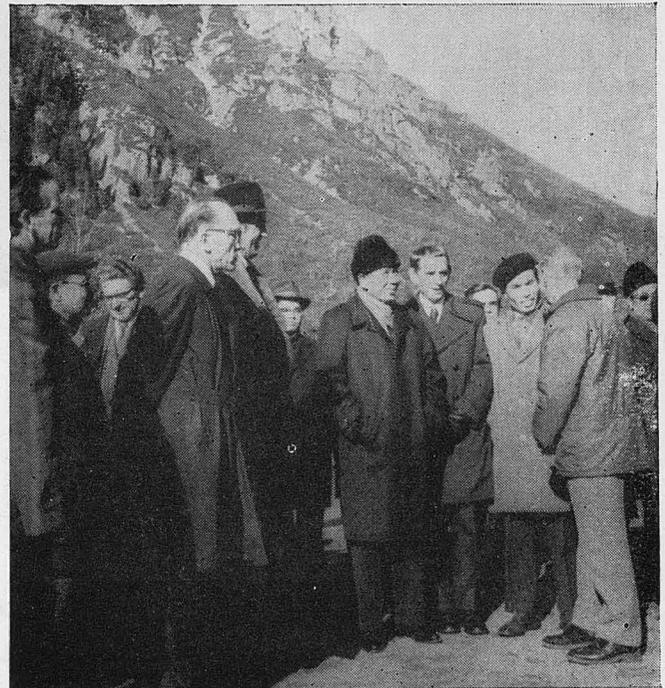
CZECHOSLOVAKIA



★ *Le Duan and Gustav Husak wave to people in Prague.*



★ *The Vietnamese delegates tour the Skoda Industrial Complex in the city of Plzen.*



ROMANIA



POLAND

★ *Edward Gierk enthusiastically welcomes Le Duan at Warsaw airport.*

★ *Visiting a mountain area in southern Poland.*

A VOICE OF THE HEART

★ *Nicolae Ceausescu and people in Bucharest joyfully receive the delegation.*

★ *At the May 1 factory for producing oil-drilling equipment in Ploesti.*

nucleo-magnetic resonance, the application to the conditions of Viet Nam of the determination of molecular structure, the measuring of energy, the measuring of bipolar moment by the spectrum, etc. At the same time, he fulfilled his duties as secretary of the Party committee of the local Viet Nam Workers' Party organization and gave leadership to 200 Party members and nearly 1,000 other, non-Party, students. He brilliantly defended his Master of Science thesis, which was read at the European conference on spectrology held in Madrid and published in Soviet science reviews.

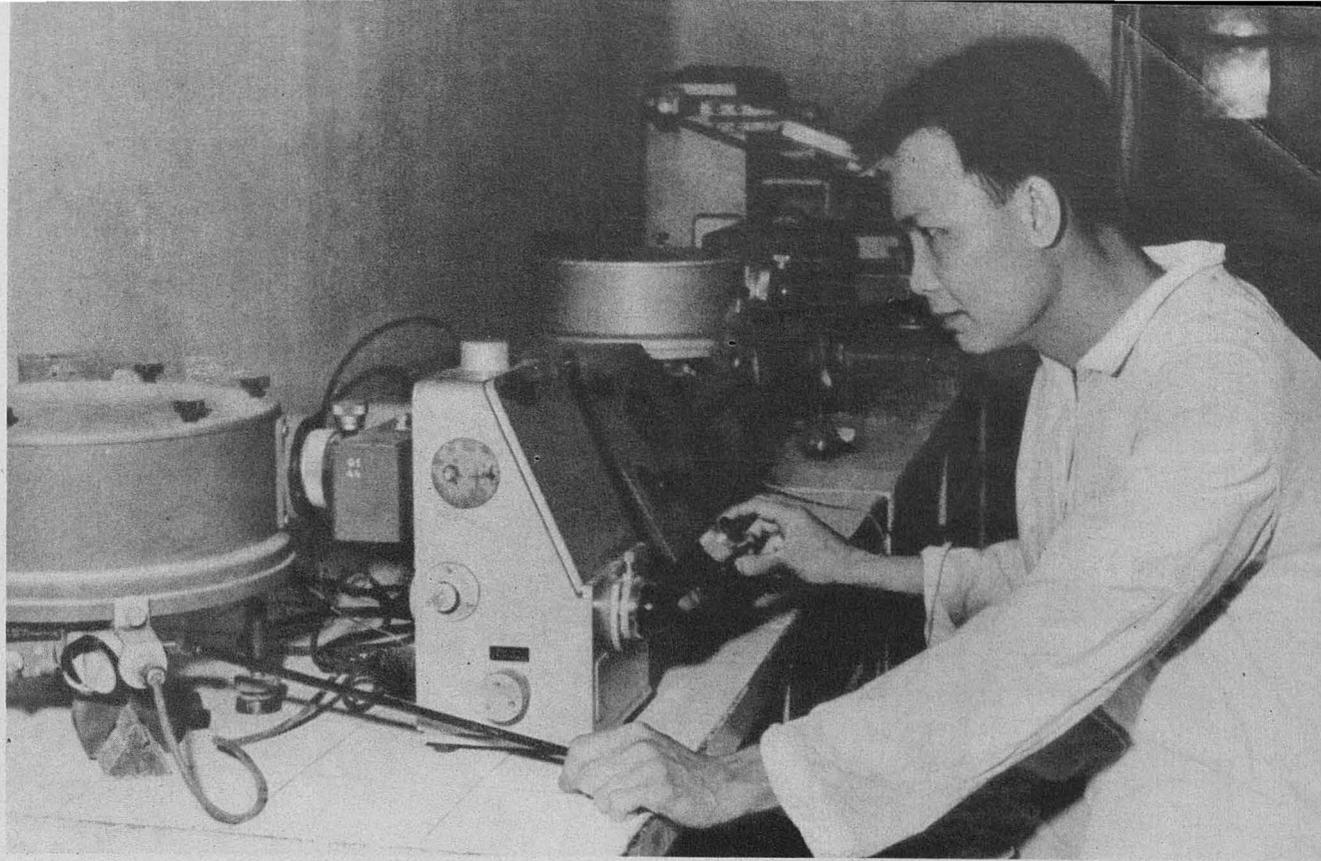
After his return to Viet Nam, he resumed his job as instructor at the Physics Department of Hanoi University. It was the time of the savage US bombing raids on North Viet Nam and one had to be constantly on the move. Ly Hoa was seriously handicapped by his infirmity - one of his legs is 12 centimetres shorter than the other - but every year, he taught over 100 extra hours and gave tutorial guidance to 5-10 graduating students.

He was the author and co-author of seven scientific projects, including Project GH, which served communications and national defence. His research team was awarded two Military Exploit Medals, Third Class. He personally was awarded a certificate of merit by the Prime Minister.

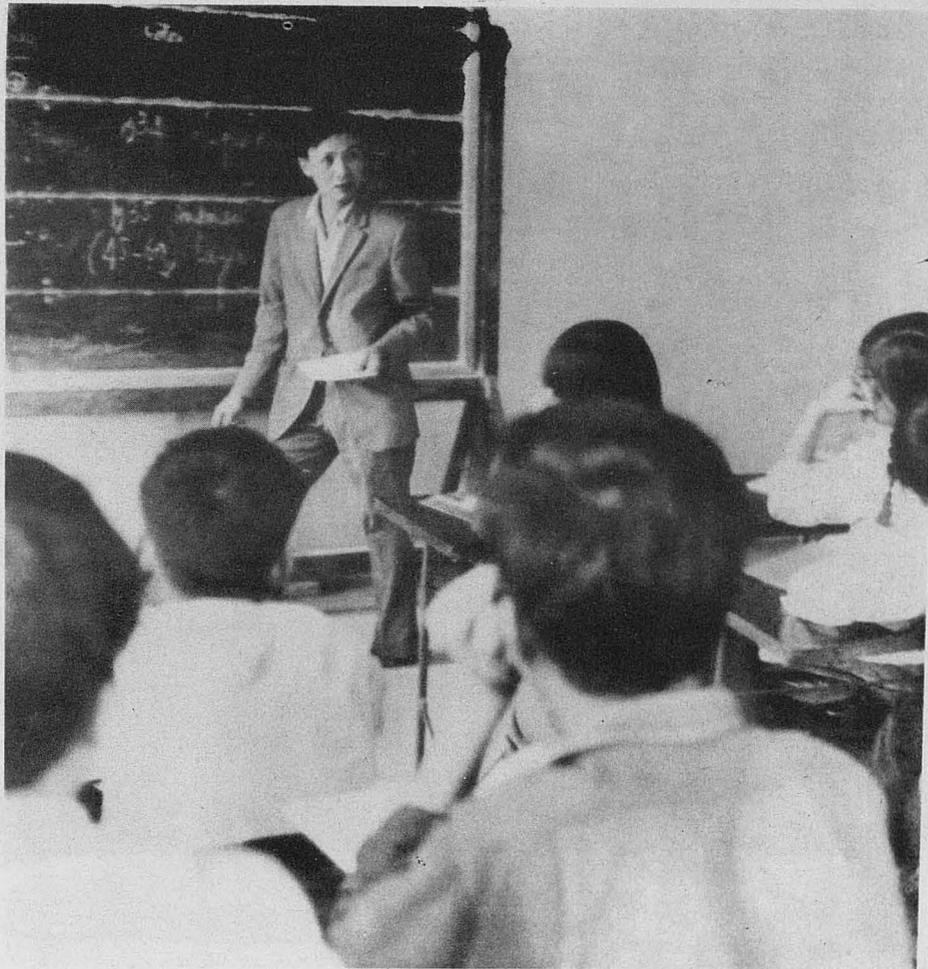
He recently completed two books totalling 700 pages on spectro-molecular structure and the experimental method of absorptional spectrum.

On the occasion of the founding anniversary of the Viet Nam People's Army, 22 December 1974, President Ton Duc Thang rewarded him with a Labour Medal, Third Class.

One may say that over the past twenty years, every day in the life of the war invalid Ly Hoa has been one of serious, hard and effective labour. He has fully retained the spirit of offensive of a revolutionary fighter on the battlefield.



★ Ly Hoa engrossed in research work.



★ His lectures are attentively followed by the students.

Text and photos :
XUAN HA

Below, left to right :

★ He spends his leisure time with his friends,...

★ ... wife and children.



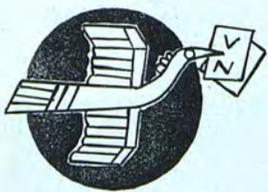
Since the liberation of Haiphong in 1955, dozens of new factories have been built and a Maritime Transport College, the first of its kind, has been set up in the city. The newly enlarged port, equipped with up-to-date cranes, has served as a port of call for merchant ships from many countries.

In the US air war of destruction against the North, Haiphong shot down 317 US planes including 5 B.52 strategic bombers and one F.111 swing-wing plane while ensuring uninterrupted production.

At present, the people in Haiphong are further expanding the port and making the city bigger and more beautiful. They are also doing their best to aid their twin city in the South, liberated Da Nang.

Photo : MANH THUONG

HAIPHONG 20 YEARS AFTER LIBERATION



Letters to the Editor

"...In my opinion, interesting topics are those concerning social problems: minority nationalities, uneducated and poor people, the organization of co-ops, and so on. Of course, there must be photos to illustrate the topics."

JURGEN FELKEL
(Federal Republic of Germany)

"I find great pleasure in reading your Pictorial. My wife and I follow developments in Viet Nam closely, and strongly support the efforts of both the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to achieve national liberation and the creation of a unified socialist State. Your magazine plays a useful role in this struggle..."

PAUL GRAYSON
(Britain)

"In the struggle against the aggressors, any human being is able to double and treble his strength to drive them out of his homeland. Viet Nam has thus struggled for a long period of

time in an unfavourable condition as regards armaments and men. At all times, however, she has clearly surpassed the enemy in confidence and honour. No force can subdue a people when they have confidence and honour in the cause they defend. Hence, Viet Nam knew she would win. Through her epic struggle Viet Nam is respected, admired, and extolled by the world."

ELADIO MEJIA RAMIREZ
(Costa Rica)

"Your Pictorial has helped me understand Viet Nam and her people, a heroic people whom I immensely admire.

It makes me feel as though Viet Nam were my own home, my own native

soil, the land of all those who have confidence in mankind..."

GERMAN BOLIVAR
(Colombia)

"Your magazine gives a picture of your lovely country and its heroic and industrious people, of the progress in rebuilding its old and constructing its new industrial and agricultural projects as well as about its housing, schools, public health and education.

The articles are usually well written and illustrated by interesting photographs. This makes for good reading..."

EULALIA AND JAMES PAPAANDREU
(Poland)

A FORWARD FRONT

NGOC LAP

A young mother, Phung Thi Phuong, gave birth to triplets at the Van Dinh hospital of Ung Hoa district in Ha Tay province. As the hospital lacked the equipment necessary to protect the underweight babies, its doctors, nurses and attendants took turns in giving them round-the-clock care, keeping them warm with their own arms and hands until all three were in their good shape.

This was one of the exploits of Van Dinh hospital and also that of the medical station of Dong Lo (the native village of Phung Thi Phuong) which had made a correct diagnosis and sent the expectant mother to the superior level hospital in good time.

*The 15-month-old triplets
and their mother,*



In fact Doctor Nguyen Khac Thuat, the Director, and his collective do not simply confine their activities to within the walls of the hospital.

They regularly go out to the 29 communes of the district, whatever the weather and using every conceivable means of transport — foot, bicycle, sampan or motor car — to help the local cadres give health check-ups, establish medical records for each inhabitant, popularize hygiene and prophylactic work and train medical workers for each hamlet, agricultural co-op and even family.

Any sick person, or co-op member who is cut through stepping on broken glass, etc., will be immediately cared for by the nearest « Red Cross » member and if necessary brought to the local co-op or village medical station. As each inhabitant has his own medical dossier at the village health station, a problem can be accurately diagnosed in the minimum of time, and only people affected with serious diseases are sent to the hospitals at the district, province or central levels. Thanks to these preliminary activities at the basic levels, the Van Dinh hospital is never overcrowded with patients and their average time under treatment has dropped from 20 days in the past to 7. Besides, the population in the district is given medical check-ups once every six weeks and permanently receives preventive medicine against epidemics.

Meanwhile, a telephone network keeps the hospital in day to day touch with the state of health of the population in all the 29 communes and of any difficulties met with by their medical stations.

The number of in-patients at the Van Dinh hospital has thus diminished month by month and in the past 15 years, no serious epidemics have broken out in the district of Ung Hoa. Manpower for production work and military service keeps increasing. This is a great success of the hospital personnel's expansion of their work to



An itinerant team of the Van Dinh hospital during its visit to a commune in the district.

Helping the staff of the medical station in the Van Dinh district town draw up nearly 2,000 medical records of the local people.



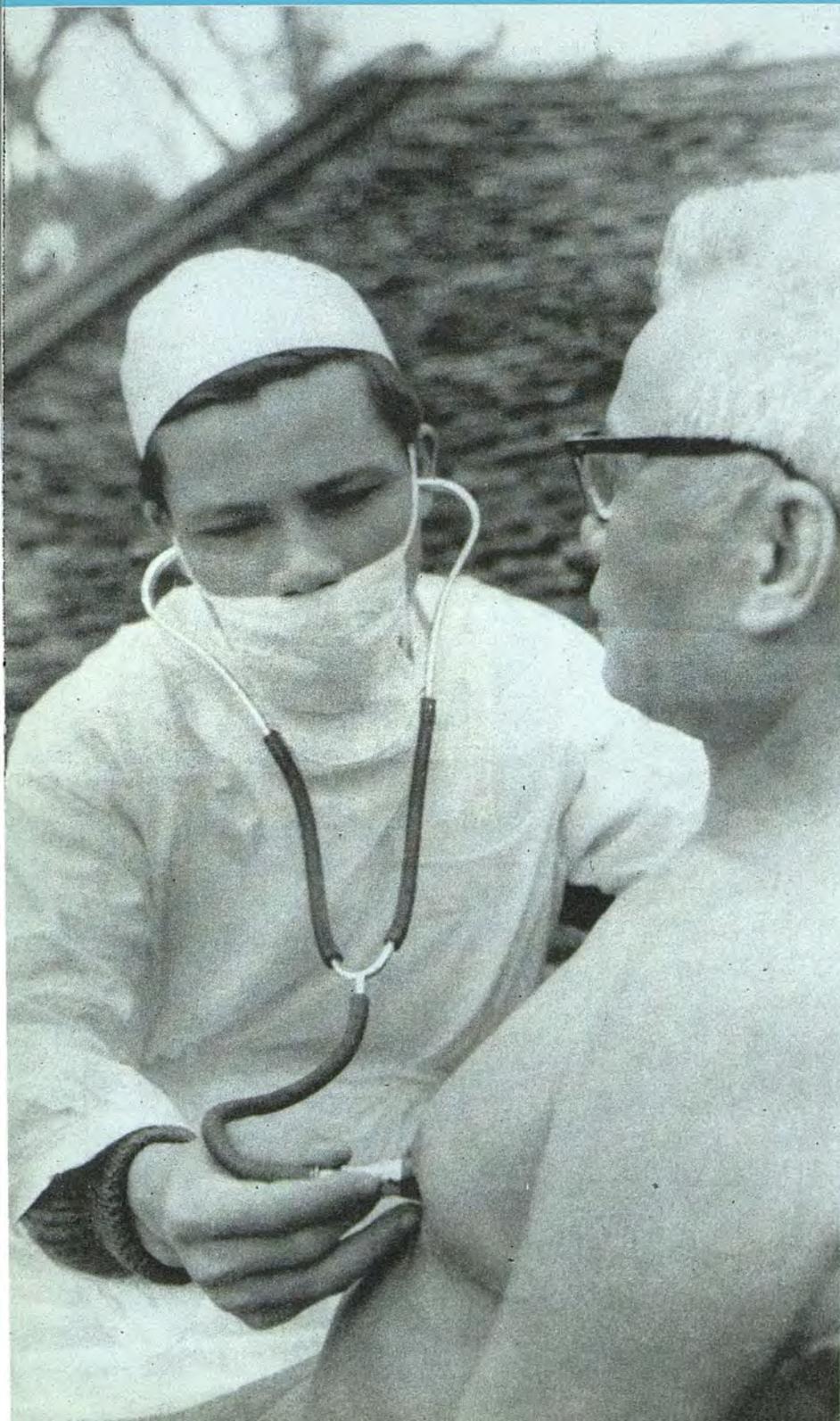
the grassroots levels, their forward front as they like to call it.

In the past ten years, some 400 medical delegations at home and abroad have come to visit and exchange experience with cadres of the Van Dinh hospital. The head of a Swedish medical delegation said: "Leaving the hospital, we take with us a deep impression and a profound admiration for what has been achieved in this establishment."



A talk on disease prevention and treatment at a weaving co-op producing goods for export at Dong Tien village.

Old people are given medical check-ups at their own homes. In the photo is Nguyen Van Than, 68, who lives in Van Dinh district town.



THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF VIET NAM IS 30 YEARS OLD

THE ANTI-US STRUGGLE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION IN THE 1969-1973 PERIOD

After Johnson's decision not to run again, Nixon entered the White House, determined to implement the reactionary doctrine bearing his name. The US imperialists "Vietnamized" the war, engineered the March 1970 coup-d'état to overthrow the Cambodian Royal Government and expanded the war to Laos.

But the three Indochinese peoples' resistance against their common enemy - US aggressive imperialism - recorded ever greater victories.

The Cambodian revolution made unceasing and significant advances. In early 1971, together with the Lao armed forces and people, the South Vietnamese army and people won a resounding victory along Highway 9 in southern Laos. In March 1972, they launched an offensive on the US-puppets, driving them into an impasse. Heavily defeated, the Nixon clique recklessly "re-Americanized" the war, massively pouring American GIs into South Viet Nam and mined all the ports and waterways in the North. They made a volte-face backpedalling on the draft agreement on the cessation of the war which was to be signed on October 31, 1972 and used a big contingent of the USAF composed of B. 52 strategic bombers, swing-wing F. 111 jets and other up-to-date planes to carry out extermination bombings against Hanoi, Haiphong and many other regions. The US intruders, however, were duly punished: in 12 days and nights (December 18-29, 1972) 81 US planes (among them 34 B. 52s and 5 F. 111s) were shot down. Hanoi alone brought down 30 planes including 23 B. 52s and 2 F. 111s. Thus in its 2nd air and naval war of destruction against the North (April - December 1972) the US lost nearly 700 planes among them 54 B. 52s and 10 F. 111s while many US war vessels were sunk or set on fire.

In the flames of the war, the socialist construction continued to develop: in 1971 food production was even higher than in previous years while industrial output in the first quarter of 1972 had increased by 16% in comparison with the same period of 1971. In the important branches such as electricity, coal mining, engineering, etc., output increased by nearly 30% and production of building materials went up by 50%. Transport and communication flowed without interruption. Finally on January 27, 1973, in Paris, the US Government was forced to sign the "Agreement on Ending the war and Restoring peace in Viet Nam." The US Command in Saigon had to organize a flag-rolling ceremony on March 29, 1973 withdrawing its last troops home.

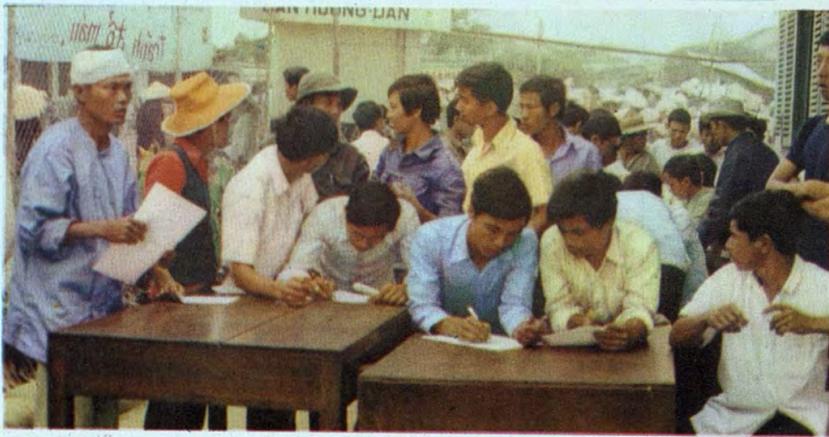
The last American GIs pull out of South Viet Nam (Tan Son Nhat - March 29, 1973).

Photo: VNA





On the Truong Tien bridge spanning the Huong (Perfume) River.



Young people in Hue enthusiastically join the city's "work brigades".



Celebrating the liberation of Thua Thien province and Hue city.

HUE AND DA NANG IN THE JOY OF LIBERATION

Photos: HO BANH, MASSIMO
LOCHE and HO HAI



A member of the students' and pupils' forces defending Hue.

Da Nang is totally liberated after 117 years under the enemy's rule.

A class on the day | visited Da Nang (April 17, 1975).
MASSIMO LOCHE

A street of Da Nang.



THE YOUTH OF HUE

Text : THANH DICH

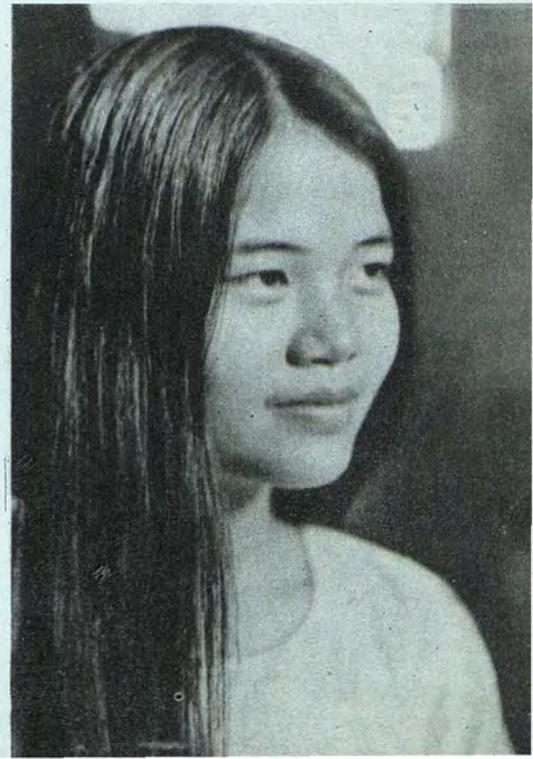


Students and pupils in Hue turn out into the streets to hail the liberation of the city and the revolutionary power.

Photos : TRAN HO,
HO HAI, CONG TUONG

Students of the Teachers' College prepare for the reopening of their classes.

Nguyen Thi Loc made an NFL flag with her robes as she waited for the entry of the Liberation forces into the city.



Nguyen Xuan Tung, who participated in many "struggle vigils" is now Deputy-Secretary General of the Liberation Students' Association.

From top to bottom :
 On the reopening day of the Dong Khanh Secondary School.
 In the premises of the Liberation Students' Association.



ONE day after the liberation of Hue, the premises of the Liberation Students' Association resounded with patriotic songs. "Nobody can impede songs, those in praise of the heroes who devote all their lives to the homeland..." they sang.

Men and women students busily moved in and out. At the Association's secretariat, the crackling of type-writers mingled with conversation and laughter, giving the area an unusually festive atmosphere.

We did not have the opportunity to witness the stirring days of the August 1945 Revolution in the city, but a friend, a native of Hue, told me: "In these days, the students and pupils have really revived the early days of the August Revolution."

Responding to the call of the People's Revolutionary Committee, the Liberation Pupils' Organization, the students and pupils have volunteered to join various "work brigades", together with the Liberation soldiers, to stabilize life in the city. They organized themselves into groups to go and popularize the news of victory, NFL policies and the orders of the city Military Management Committee. Many went out in different directions to do hygiene work and re-establish order, recovering the military equipment thrown aside by puppet troops during their stampede.

Art groups were set up to perform dances and revolutionary songs in the service of the people. How happy they were to sing to their heart's content in honour of the new life and the independence and freedom of the nation.

Pham-Huu Luong, a 7th-year student of the Hue College of Fine Arts no longer painted but initiated his friends into new dances and songs working with the same zeal as when he used to stand before his easel. Not long ago, guitar in hand, Luong would go from one university to another in the city to sing and awaken the national consciousness of the students. His songs, imbued with revolutionary and anti-US feeling, had had a great effect in Da Nang and Saigon in 1968-1969.

In Hue city, now full of animation and enthusiasm, people told each other about the story of Nguyen Thi Loc, a 3rd-year student of the city Teachers' College. When the Liberation guns boomed in Quang Tri, Loc secretly made a flag of the National Front for Liberation with two of her robes, one red and the other blue. At the very moment when people in Hue were rising up, the flag was hoisted in Phu Vang Quarter, stimulating the masses to rush forward...

For a long time, Hue has gone down into art and literature as a symbol of poetry and charm. Now, it also symbolizes revolutionary heroism, the worthy attribute of its youth, students

and pupils in particular. They were the detonators and spearheads of the mass movement against the US aggressors, and their lackeys. At the premises of the Liberation Students' Association, we met Truong Van Hoa, a 4th-year student of the Teachers' College and an untiring member of the movement, now Secretary-General of the Association, and Nguyen Xuan Tung, a 3rd-year student of the Faculty of Literature who had participated in "sleepless nights of struggle" and counter-attacks with jellified gasoline against the puppet police, now Deputy Secretary-General of the Association. We also contacted Vu Nam, Ho Thi Chanh and others. All of them were alike in the gentleness of their expressive voices and their affable and civil demeanour, and each was closely linked with the multifarious forms of struggle which had so much terrified the enemy.

Together with the masses, they had risen up at a very early stage to demand that the Americans withdraw, to burn US vehicles, to wreck the US Information Bureau and to oppose the farcical elections of the traitors. They had turned schools into information and propaganda centres and the city itself into "street fronts" against the enemy police.

At present, they are marching into their new lives with all the joy and enthusiasm of youth.



1. The film is about Le Thi Hong Gam, a 19-year-old girl who has been posthumously awarded the title "Heroine of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces" by the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

THE STORY OF A GIRL

From a production by the Viet Nam Magic Lantern Studio

Script : MAI PHAN
Drawings : NGUYEN DUONG
Editing : TRAN DINH

2. Born into a revolutionary family, Hong Gam was politically conscious at an early age thanks to the guidance of her parents, her elder brother, and her uncle Chin in particular. At the age of 16, she served as a messenger for the revolution.



3. Gam accepted any liaison task, however hard, but she preferred to fight the US imperialists, arms in hand. Once, showing great resource, she killed five Americans and wounded a number of others with a mine.

4. After a period of activity, Gam was entrusted by the revolutionary power and the local people with the job of deputy-leader of the village guerilla forces.



5. The revolutionary movement in Gam's native village spread like a prairie fire. Under her leadership, the villagers rose up to destroy "strategic hamlets" and "new life centres" to liberate themselves.



6. In the area lived T., an agent well-known for his cruelties. Gam decided to kill him to avenge her compatriots. On a pitch dark night, she broke into T.'s house. As the window opened, T. sprang to his feet... but it was too late.





7. As a result of the guerillas' activities, the region under the enemy control grew narrower and the liberated zone kept expanding.



11. In April 1970, Gam took two women cadres to a revolutionary base to prepare for a new battle. On their way they were spotted and attacked by American gunships.

8. In one of her 60 renowned battles, Gam disguised herself as a city dweller to reconnoitre Highway 4 and plant a mine right under the enemy's noses.



9. As the Americans garrisoned in the base walked out of its gate Gam clambered down like a squirrel from the high tree which was her look-out post and set off the electric mine. A deafening explosion : three Yanks were killed.

12. After taking the two cadres to safety, Hong Gam single-handedly counter-attacked the enemy. Her accurate firing brought down one helicopter on the spot.



13. Finally Gam had only 10 shots left. Though heavily wounded, she calmly carried on the fight, killing several more GIs.

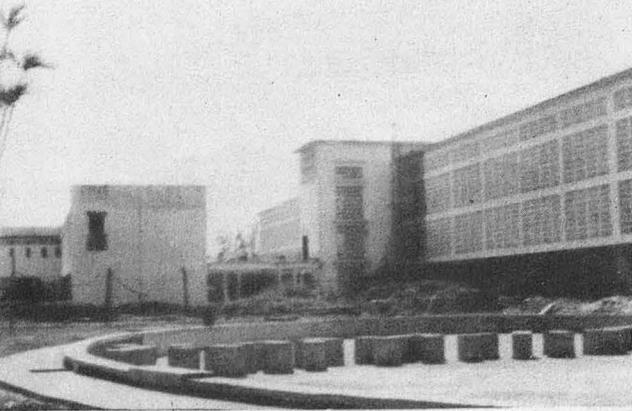


14. After her last shot, Hong Gam gathered all her force to smash her beloved weapon then fell. She had thus battled all through her fighting life. All her exploits were shining with a determination to wipe out the aggressors and traitors.

10. The survivors took to flight. Using their weapons, Hong Gam rushed forward and wiped them out to the last man.



News in brief

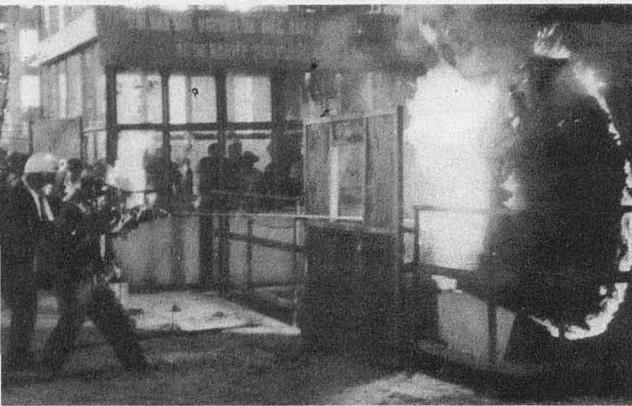


THE VIET NAM INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCES

This research centre, the biggest in Viet Nam, includes many departments: solid-state physics, optics, nuclear physics, mineral chemistry, organic chemistry, geology, biology, geography, geophysics, tropicalization techniques, computer facilities...

The Institute is equipped with modern means capable of serving big research projects. Its building has been interrupted several times in the past years owing to wartime conditions but it is now going ahead full speed with the help of Soviet experts.

NGUYEN VUONG



THE FIRST TAP FROM THE STEEL FURNACE

In our issue of October 1974 we published a story about the building of the Gia Sang Rolling Mill in Bac Thai province. With the help of experts from the German Democratic Republic, the mill is being completed and 17 of the 24 shops have begun operation. On May Day 1975, the first tap came out of the steel furnace.

A PIECE OF CELLULAR TISSUE CAN BE GROWN INTO A PLANT

Using proper culture media with adequate light and temperature conditions the biological chemistry and plant physiology department of the Institute of Natural Sciences has been able to grow a piece of cellular tissue cut from the root of a rice plant into a full-grown plant, which has produced flowers and seeds. It has also been able to cultivate cellular tissue from the tip of a potato sprout and produce a full-grown potato plant. This opens up bright prospects for the development through cross-breeding of new species with high economic value such as protein-rich rice and maize, disease-resistant potato, ginseng, pseudo-ginseng, etc.



HOAI NAM

SO, Hue has been liberated. The city is more beautiful than ever. On the Perfume River a boat peacefully glides. Gold-starred flags fluttered over cosy cottages. Beauty and poetry have always been the attributes of Hue. The beauty of her landscapes, the beauty of her people's feelings! From those landscapes and feelings there has sprung beautiful poetry. Poetry imbues the songs of the sampan-women, the moonlight over the lagoons, the struggle of the people... Poetry used also to come out from the jails where revolutionary fighters were kept. The lines of Tu Ay (Since Then...) composed by the poet To Huu are typical of the militant poetry of Hue, so full of vitality like the bamboos of Viet Nam.

Today I would like to tell the story of the 3,000 lines of verse which have been released "from the grave" by the liberation of the city and now are soaring in the sky of freedom.

BEAUTIFUL HUE AND THE POEM "LIVING IN A GRAVE"

Under the enemy's rule, Hue had many prisons - Mang Ca, Thua Phu... - but there was a little-known one in the pine hills west of the city. Its name was "Nine Caves". A revolutionary militant kept there in Ngo Dinh Diem's time had composed a long poem called "Living in a Grave". On 3 November 1963, a putsch overthrew the dictator. The putschists' troops made a search in the estate of Ngo Dinh Can, his brother, and by chance discovered that secret prison. In the caves they found only three survivors, all bags of bones with little life left in them. Unable to identify the dying men, the soldiers took them to the police headquarters, where they were again flung in jail. The political prisoners kept there took great care of the men returning from the Nine Caves, and one of the three, Nguyen Dan Trung, told them about the poem he had composed and memorized. They provided him with pen and paper and he wrote it down. It was later smuggled out of prison and widely circulated in the liberated areas.

Nguyen Dan Trung had been caught by Diem police in Saigon. From torture chamber to torture chamber and from jail to jail, he was finally thrown into one of the Nine Caves where the prisoners were condemned to slow death. In fact, as I have said above, only three men are known to have survived and escaped from those "tombs". Nguyen Dan Trung describes the regime practised there as follows:

*Their method of murder is a carefully calculated one.
It's more painful to the victim than the thousand-cut torture.
The victim is buried alive but not yet allowed to die,
He must live in a coffin with the lid on.*

The Nine Caves were all built in the side of pine-clad hills. Some contained tiger cages. The prisoners kept there were fed with rice mixed with paraffin and gravel, left to lie amidst his excreta and suffered from all kinds of diseases. Each was locked up in a tiger cage, with no company but the passing shadow of the sentry, a sadistic brute. Most died after a few months. Wrote Nguyen Dan Trung:

*In this chamber, torture goes on endlessly.
The torturers need no bludgeon or whip,
Yet their victims feel their bones erode.
Their marrow dry up, their bowels wither.*

*Each cell in their bodies writhes and suffers,
Yet life goes on. A life worse than a thousand deaths.*

But the prisoners did not die without a struggle. With a makeshift needle and knife made from bits of metal retrieved from the sanitary pail, they made themselves warm coats from discarded gunny bags. Fermented bits of rice gave them a kind of yeast, which helped combat disease. Once a fellow-inmate, Chin Tinh, told Trung before breathing his last: "The people everywhere in the South have risen up to fight the enemy with all weapons at hand. We in the prisons must never say die." Trung fully agreed. One must not let oneself die slowly. Neither should one vegetate like an animal. What should he do? An idea flashed through his mind. He would write poetry. Poetry is a weapon which a militant can use to expose the wickedness of the enemy and record the heroism of his comrades.

New life blossomed in Cell 13. Trung walked to and fro to seek inspiration, that is he made the five short paces which the 1.6 metre-long cell allowed before turning and retracing his tiny steps. He was not an experienced poet and he hardly know how to put rhymes together, but he persisted. He read his first 50 lines to Tam, another fellow-inmate, who was kept in the next tiger cage. Tam warmly praised his effort. So he

continued and by May Day 1963, ten months later, he had finished more than 1,000 verses. By September 2 of that year, which was National Day, the figure reached 2,000, and on 2 November 1963 the 3,000th line was completed. Then he was taken out of the Nine Caves.

The way in which the long poem was composed was worth recounting. There was no pen, no paper and no light. So Trung just memorized the verses as they took shape in his mind. In spite of his physical exhaustion, great resolve urged him on: his work will live on even after his death! He made a small ring with an old sandal strap, which he slipped on his finger. After composing ten lines of verse, he would shift it to the next finger. By the time the ring came to the last finger, he had composed a hundred lines. He then stopped and devoted his effort to memorizing them. Hunger, cold, disease did not stop him. In fact his spiritual effort lessened his hunger and alleviated his pain. From time to time he had to stop and fight off rats and on some occasions poisonous snakes. His work, "Living in a Grave", was at the same time an epic and an indictment. It told the story of his ordeal. Here is how it began:

*The soldiers shoved him onward.
He foundered, fumbled, tripped
On tree roots and on stones.
A long slope led him into an abyss.
Toads were croaking in a dismal way.
He slipped and fell by a shrub.
He shouted, "Shoot me here and now!
You're going to kill me anyway."
But the guards answered sneeringly:
"We won't kill you, not yet...
"Now we've arrived."
He heard the clanking of chains,
The whining of a door turning on its hinges.
Where was he? In a robbers' cavern?
Or the den of demons?*

Lying at the bottom of his "grave" and listening to drops of rain falling was a harrowing experience:

*How could one describe the sorrow
Caused by listening to the raindrops dripping?
Falling on the bars, they seemed to ask endless
questions,
To which they themselves gave disheartening
answers.
"Are our fellow-inmates there still alive or
are they dead?"
"Dead!" they replied.
At times they sounded like nails being driven
into a coffin,
Or men wading in strange puddles,
Or, falling on a metal surface,
Like a death knell being tolled...*

But "Living in a Grave" is also full of hopes. One day, clambering to near the top of the cage he saw in the distance, at the end of the gallery, a small opening. This gave him a pleasant shock which he recorded in these lines:

*"How happy! All is not lost," he said,
For he just saw a little opening.*

*Nothing much, a square window with bars,
Half hidden by rocks and grass on the outside.
But what was left contained a piece of bright
sky,
And views of vegetation!
That's enough. And the prisoner said to
himself:
"Hopes still lie ahead,*

*"And the torturers haven't got the last word,
"When joy has followed me into the grave!"*
Yes, optimism never died in him. His spirit was stronger than the worst trials. From deep in the ground, his joy blossomed and spread. Like him, the people of Hue never bowed their heads.

PHAM HOI



"OUR PLANT"

TRONG THANH

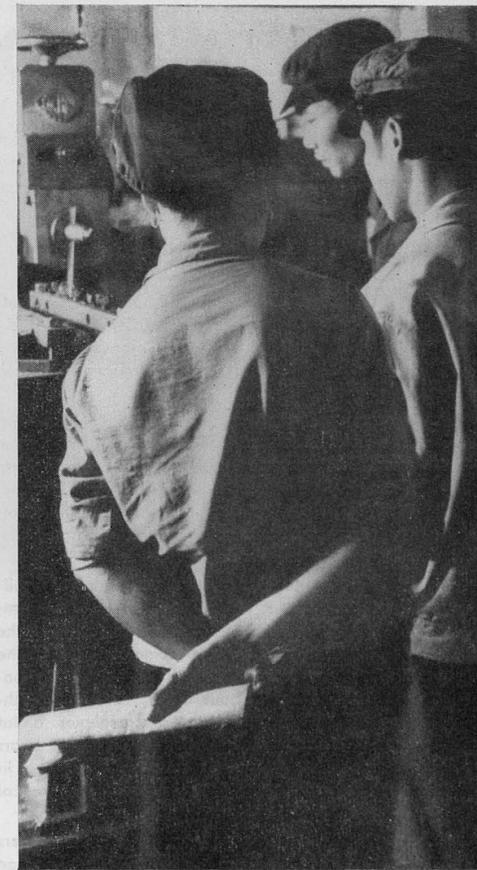
The air wars of destruction waged by Johnson and Nixon against the DRVN in the past utterly failed to destroy its young industry. Factories and plants continued to operate underground, in grottoes or deep jungles. Meanwhile new ones emerged, among them the Textile Mechanical Plant No 1 of Nam Ha province.

Despite the fierceness of the war and the shortage of materials and technical means the plant has successfully produced its first automatic looms bearing the mark "MD-100-VN" and thousands of complete sets of spare parts for North Viet Nam's textile mills.

Following is a short reportage on the plant—"Our Plant"—as its cadres and workers often call it.

"Our guiding principle has been to build at the same time as we carry out production work," Nguyen Van Tiet (left, above), Director of the plant, usually stresses.

At present, the plant is being expanded though it twice had to be rebuilt on an area once ravaged by dozens of US blockbusters in 1972 (left photo).

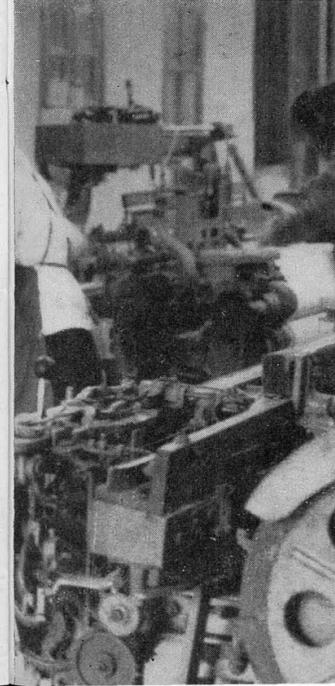
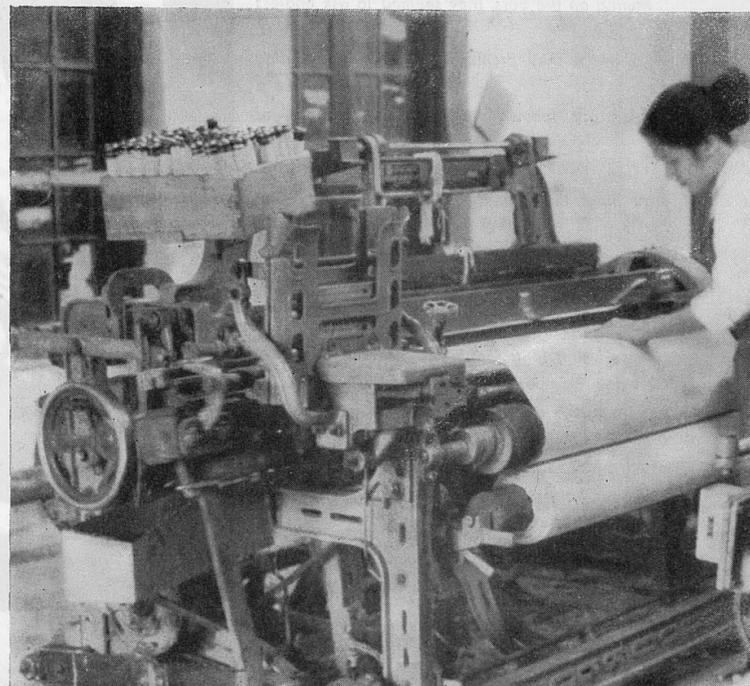
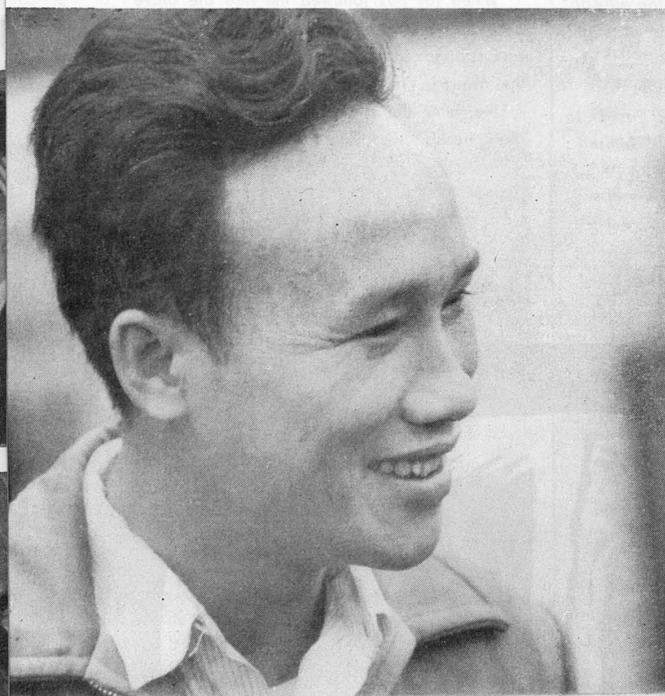


The workers of this young plant are also young: with an average age of 28 and of 2.7 years in their career. Eager to learn new things, they are always ready to engage in heated debates with each other.

Engineer Do Minh Tam: "By designing and mass producing accessories to transform existing machines into specialized ones, we have produced 1,000 out of the nearly 2,000 parts needed to make the automatic looms produced by the workshop."

Another measure contributing to the rapid increase in work productivity of the plant is the strict application of the production schedule. The "Red Banner" youth has helped a great deal in checking results and controlling working hours at the plant.

Practical results give the best idea of the quality of the work. Dozens of MD-100-VN weaving machines are operating well at the Textile Institute of the Ministry of Light Industry (below, left) and the spare parts turned out by the plant have been praised by the workers at the Nam Dinh Textile Combinat (below, right). Their mass production is only a question of time. The comrade responsible for the planning work at the Plant was quite right when he said: "The repeated orders for our machines are really the best reward for all our efforts."



AT A WORK-STUDY COLLEGE

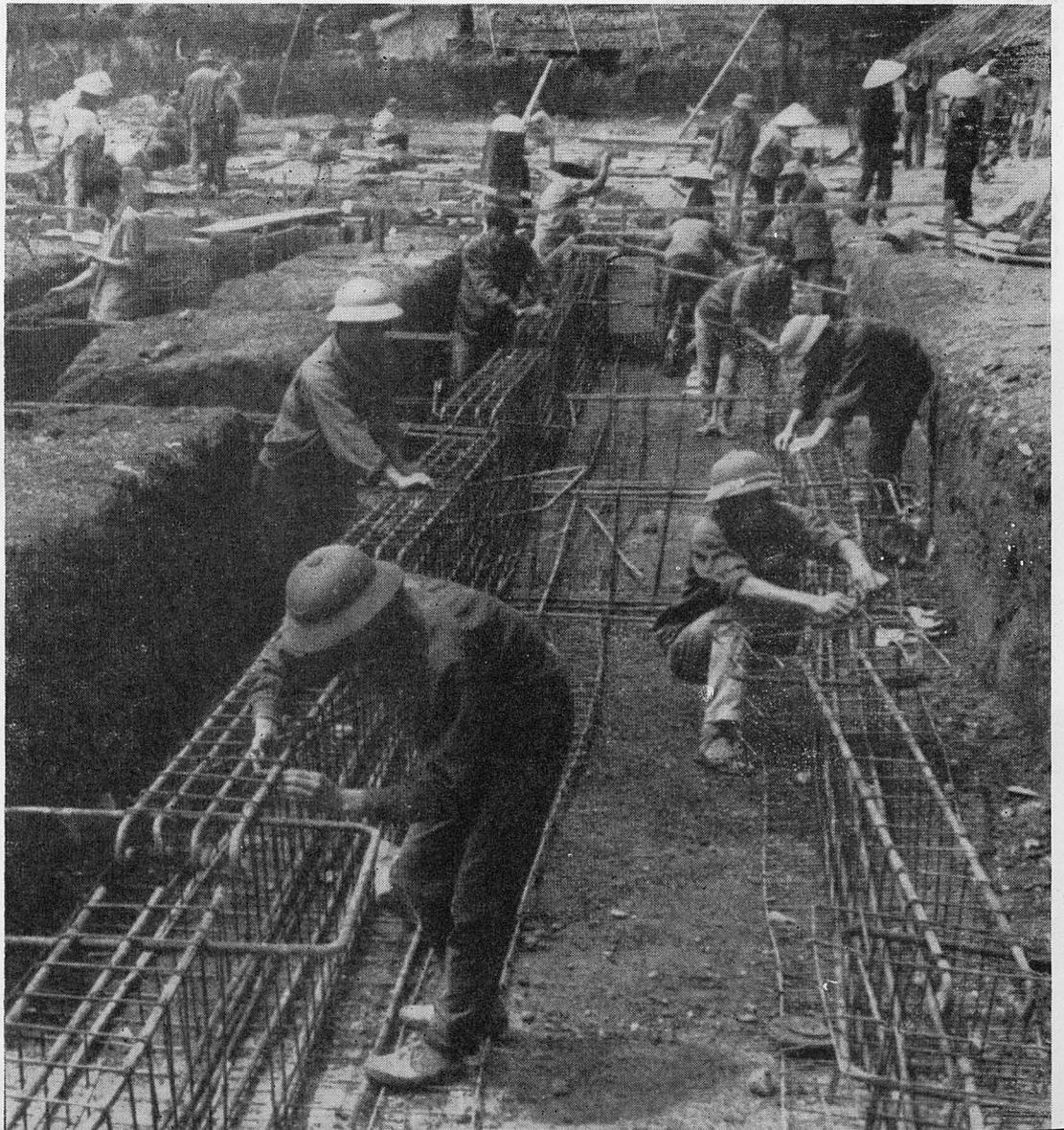
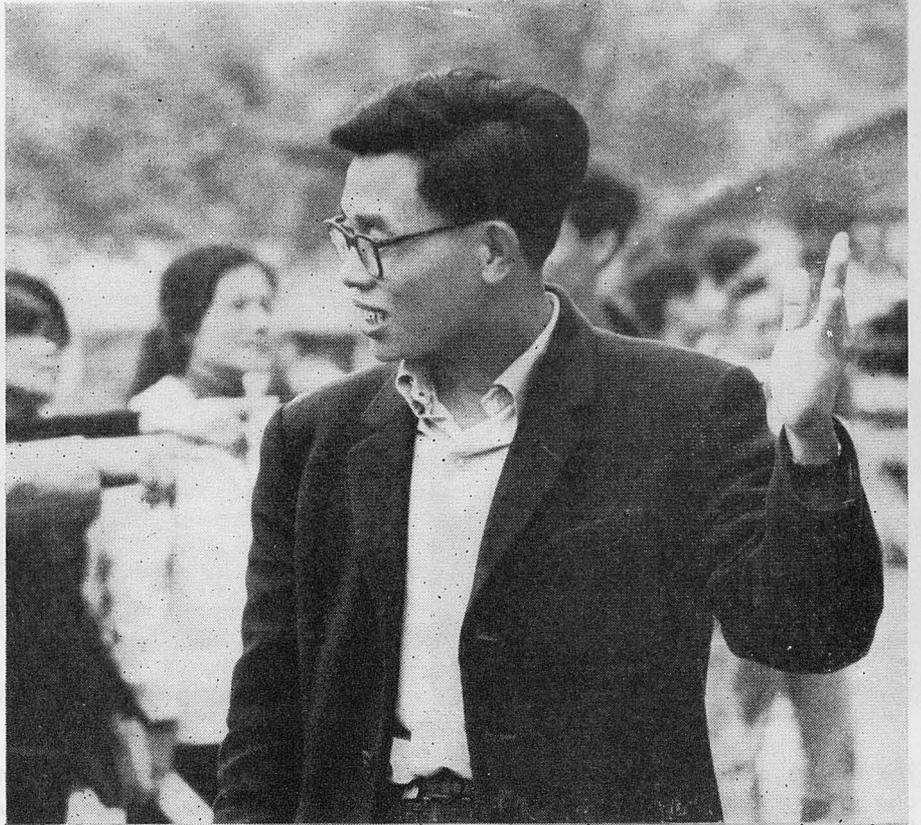
KHUE - CHUC

On May 7, 1958, at the 2nd Congress of Vietnamese Students, President Ho Chi Minh said: "A brain worker who cannot do manual work and a manual labourer who has no learning is a half-crippled worker."

This concept was reflected in the Political Report of the Third National Congress of the Viet Nam Workers' Party held in 1960: "We must firmly grasp the principle 'To combine education with production work' and the guiding mottoes 'close links between theory and practical reality, study and practice, education in schools and in society'."

Over the past ten years, dozens of work-study colleges have been set up in North Viet Nam, forming thousands of cadres for the country. Thus the success of this formula has become a reality in the educational services of the DRVN, but some people are still hesitant about trusting the new methods. They feel that labour work occupies a lot of time which should be devoted to study; it wears out the students who become slower to take in knowledge and consequently lowers the theoretical level of the engineers.

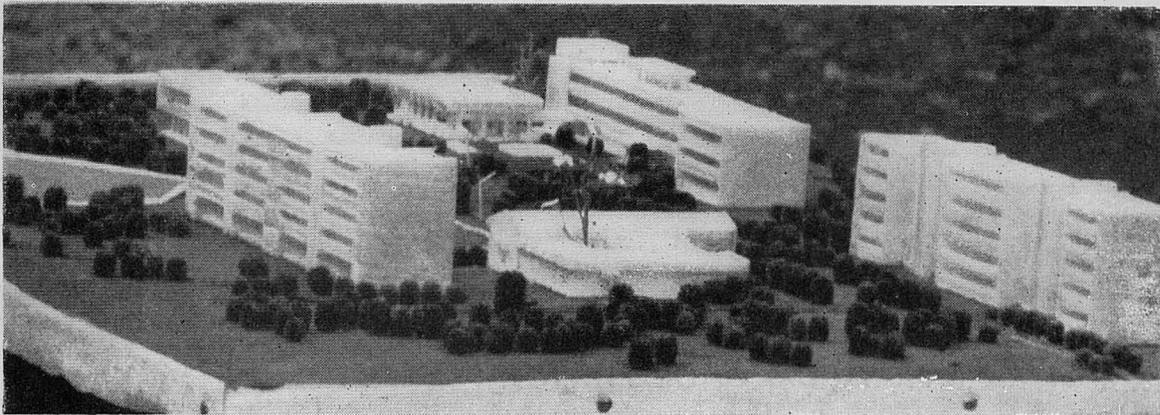
Aware of such "doubts", a number of lecturers and students at the Work-Study Building College gave their opinions.



Luu Quang Chi (left), Director of the Building College : "In 1975, our college will build for Hanoi capital 7,000 square metres of housing, saving 3,000,000 **dongs** for the State. But the introduction of manual labour into higher learning establishments is not only aimed at economic objectives. Production work has in fact occupied part of our time, but a rational distribution of the time for work and study and an appropriate choice of work in conformity with the objects taught and studied turns it into a rich source of teaching aids and fruitful practice."

Architect Nghiem Dinh Thao (below, far left) :

"I was a builder for ten years before joining the college. At that time, the work-study formula was not yet applied at our higher learning establish-



AT A WORK-STUDY COLLEGE

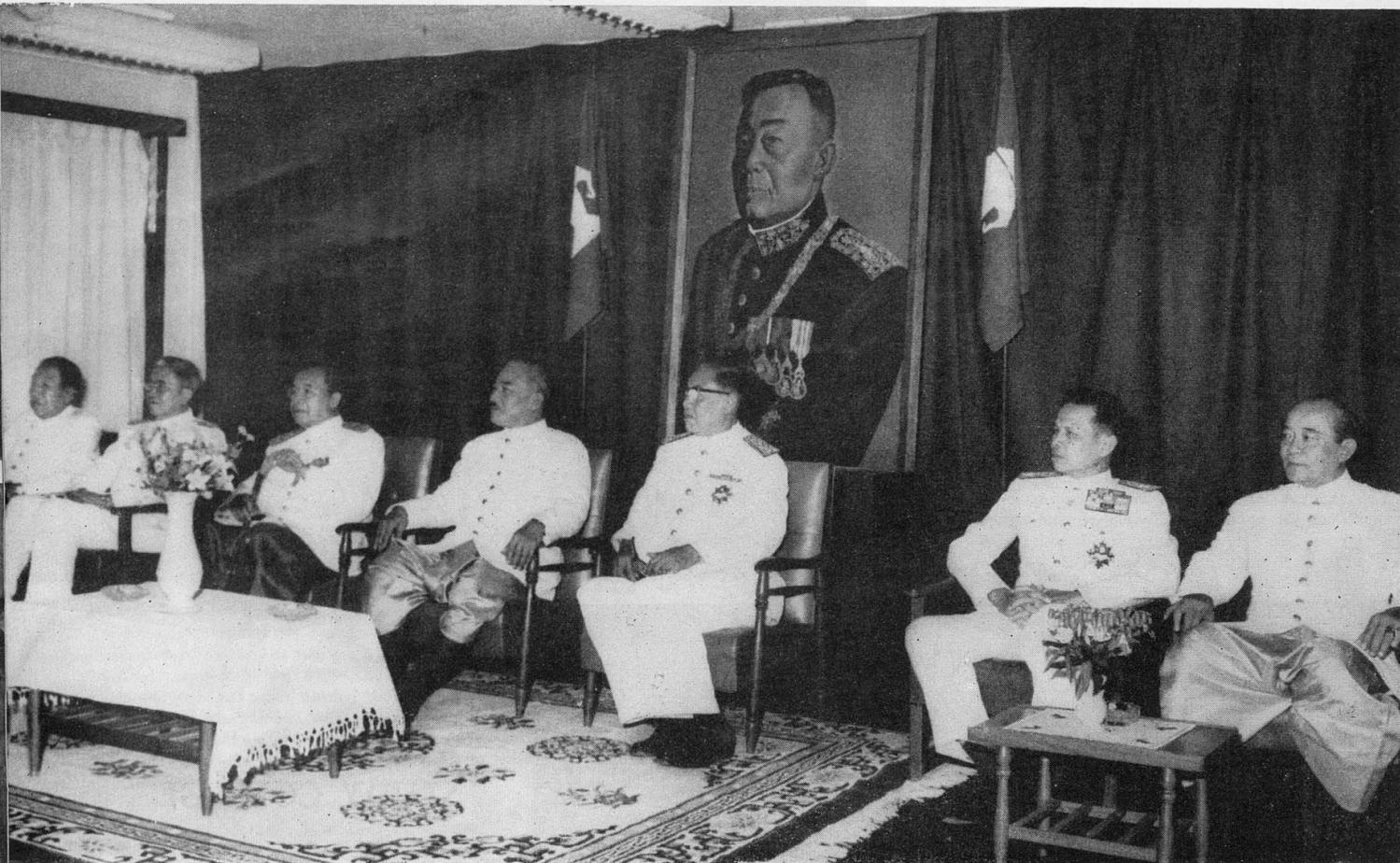
ments. As a result many students were out of their depth in their first days in classes, particularly when technical terms concerning various parts and pieces were mentioned. They were hazy about their shapes and did not understand their interdependence. As for me, I quickly mastered the lessons and became a guide in my study group."

Ta Thi Lien (top right), a 3rd-year student : "During the first days at our College a number of us were greatly concerned wondering whether we would succeed in graduating after five years of work and study. My worry was all the greater as I was a city dweller, not accustomed to heavy work. Now I can do everything : foundation digging, concrete pouring, assembling and giving finishing touches to the houses... We consider practical labour as an absolute necessity **(left)**.

"We have built thousands of buildings. One of them was praised by Premier Pham Van Dong during his visit in these words : 'Five marks for this house in the field of building !' " **(right)**.

"Of course, study is still our main task. In the recent examination, we equalled other universities and colleges in our theory and surpassed them in the field of practice. We are going to use our knowhow in the construction of other buildings, one reserved for the Vietnamese Language Section of the General University for instance **(above)**.





ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL DAY OF LAOS (OCTOBER 12, 1945 - 1975)

Tremendous victory of the Lao revolution

Led by tanks a column of Lao patriotic forces drove into the town of Savannakhet amidst the thunderous applause of tens of thousands of people lining the road. Women and old folk could not contain their tears when hanging garlands of flowers round the necks of the heroic sons of the people.

Western press correspondents describe the scene in these words: In an atmosphere of joy and enthusiasm tens of thousands of people lined the road leading into the town in order to welcome the Pathet Lao forces.

Many units of the patriotic forces were also sent to participate in the defence of other towns at the request of the people and insurgent soldiers in the Vientiane army and with the complete approval of the Lao Provisional Government of National Union, with a view to countering the schemes of the ultra-rightists, lackeys of the Americans, and ensuring order and security for the people.

Following the great victories scored by the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples in completely liberating their countries from the American neo-colonialist rule, the Lao

people have pushed forward their struggle for implementing the Vientiane Agreement, carrying into effect the 18-point Political Programme, and wiping out American neo-colonialism in Laos.

The Lao people resolutely demanded the dissolution of the "special forces", mercenaries in the pay of the Americans and commanded by the CIA; the dissolution of all reactionary organizations set up by the Americans in Laos; the removal from Laos of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) which has been used over the past decades as a tool for American aggression and intervention in Laos and is guilty of countless crimes against the Lao people. In recent years, these instruments have been used by the Americans to sabotage the Vientiane Agreement, wreck the peace, and work against national independence and concord in Laos.

In face of those legitimate demands of the people, the Lao Provisional Government of National Union ordered the dissolution of the USAID. On 27 May 1975 the American chargé d'affaires had to agree to remove this agency and withdraw all its personnel from Laos before 30 June. And

so after being driven out of Viet Nam and Cambodia the American imperialists had to end completely their involvement and intervention in Laos.

The Lao Provisional Government of National Union has also removed Vientiane ultra-rightists from all levels of the administration, from central to local, including such officials as vice premier, ministers, vice ministers, provincial governors. At the same time, large numbers of men and officers of all three armed services of Vientiane's five military regions have staged repeated actions against the reactionary ultra-rightists, for peace and national concord. Several generals, among them the deputy commander-in-chief Kuprasit Abay, the special forces commander Vang Pao, and the commander of the Vientiane military region Thonglit Chokbangbun, have fled abroad.

The dismissal of ultra-rightist elements, lackeys of the Americans, has created favourable conditions for the Lao Provisional Government of National Union to implement the Vientiane Agreement, while the presence of revolutionary forces has encouraged and assisted the masses in

★ The 18-point Political Programme is aimed at building a peaceful, independent, neutral democratic, unified and prosperous Laos. It was unanimously approved at the Second Session of the Joint Political National Council under the chairmanship of Prince Souphavong.

Below, left to right:

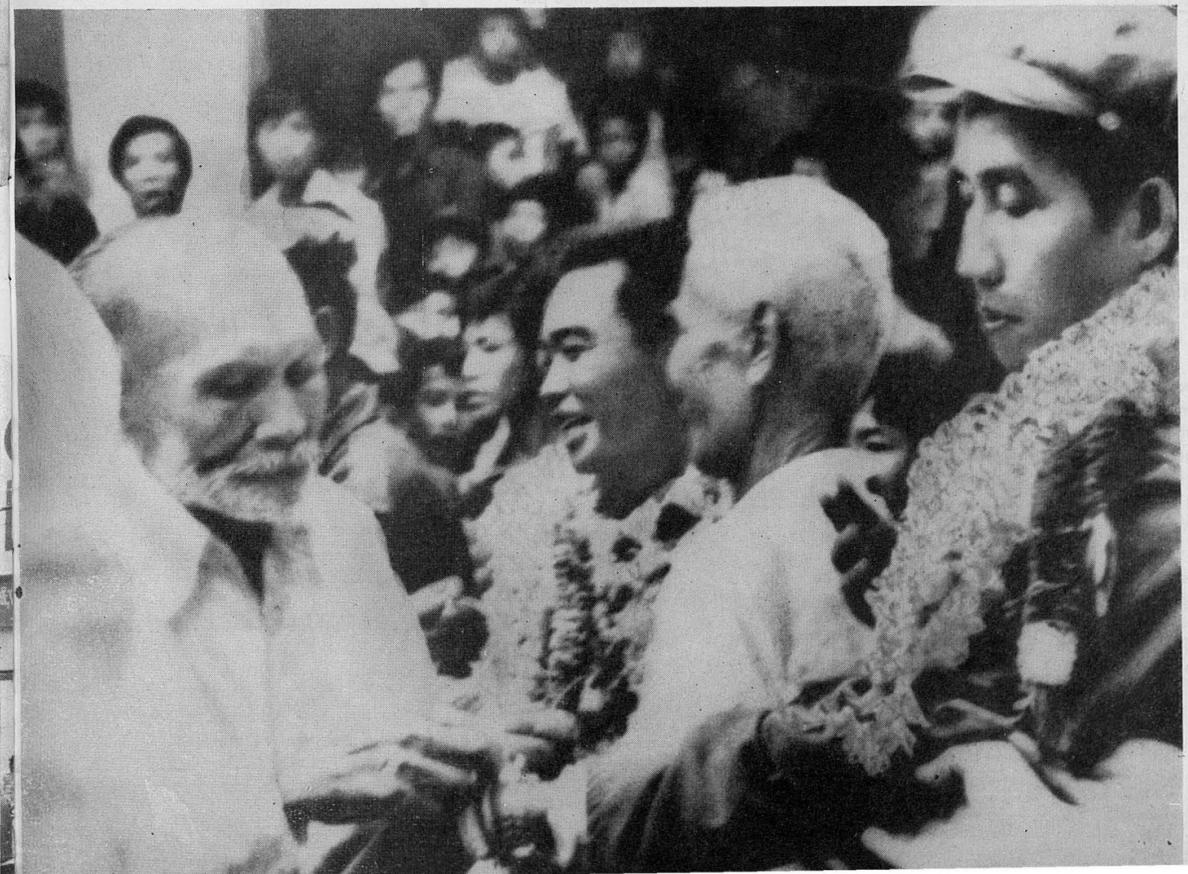
★ The people of Vientiane take to the streets to demand the dismissal of ultra-rightist elements from the administration and the removal of the US Agency for International Development.

★ At the people's request, Pathet Lao forces enter the town of Savannakhet to help defend the administration.

staging uprisings to wipe out all manifestations of American neo-colonialism and all its lackeys, in consolidating national power and in giving a further impulse to the Lao revolution.

The tremendous victory just scored by the Lao people is the result of 30 years of persevering and courageous struggle for national independence under the clear-sighted leadership of the Lao Patriotic Front. It is also a victory for the policy of peace, independence and national concord in Laos.

The Lao people, closely united under the leading banner of the Lao Patriotic Front, having the people's armed forces as the core, and benefiting from the vigorous sympathy and support of the Vietnamese and Cambodian peoples, will rush forward on the impetus of their already gained successes. By stepping up their struggle, they will frustrate all schemes of the American imperialists and their agents and achieve their glorious objective which is to build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.



Text: TRONG HAI
Photos: KPL Agency

Welcoming the glorious sons of the people.



VIET NAM :
LAND AND
PEOPLE

A JACKET PRESENTED TO UNCLE HO BY THE SAIGON POPULATION

In 1950, following their historic anti-US demonstrations in March, the population of Saigon sent a jacket to President Ho Chi Minh. It is a winter jacket, with a zip down the front and an elastic waistband, and on the inside part of its collar is a mark reading : "Van Hoa, 116 Le Loi - Saigon". On a red band attached to its left breast pocket one can find the inscription : "A gift to respected Uncle Ho - The Viet Nam National League Group of Ho Chi Minh City".

After a long journey in the hard conditions of the war, the jacket reached its destination in the Viet Bac resistance base, bringing to Uncle Ho the love and affection of the people in the city bearing his name.

Text : Dang Hoa
Photo : Tran Cu



AT THE MUSEUM
OF THE REVOLUTION

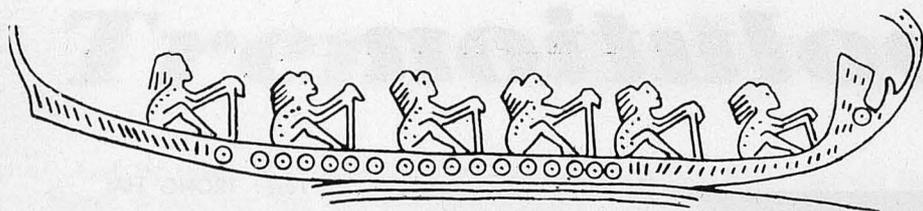
AT THE MUSEUM OF HISTORY

REGATTAS UNDER THE HUNG KINGS

Regattas seem to have been very popular with the Vietnamese people during countryside festivals under the Hung Kings (2,000-180 B.C.). In general there were two different kinds of race, by warships or by rowing boats.

Warships were usually large in size, equipped each with a rudder and a high platform. Each team was composed of six boats on which many young men and women were standing, clad in bird-shaped garments and ready to fight with weapons in hand (shields, lances, spears, bows and arrows, axes, etc.)

Rowing boats, which were usually dug-out canoes, had curved prows and swallow-tailed sterns. They were formed into teams of two, four or six boats manned by neatly dressed oarsmen nimbly plying their paddles, (see photo). Rowing-boat races are still held in many parts of North Viet Nam's midland and delta - regions which made up the ancient kingdom of Van Lang under the Hung Kings. Dam village, Tay Huu Commune, Tu Liem district in suburban Hanoi is one of the villages which continue to hold regattas.



NGUYEN VAN HUYEN
Photo : Museum of History

Decorative designs on a brass drum from the Hung Kings period, on display at the History Museum.

An economic and cultural centre of South Viet Nam, Saigon has an area of over 700 square kilometres and a population of more than three million inhabitants. It is also a major port in Southeast Asia known as the "pearl of the Far East".

Saigon has a long tradition of patriotic literature and art against feudalism, colonialism and imperialism with outstanding sons like Nguyen Dinh Chieu, Phan Van Tri, Huynh Van Dat, Nguyen Thong, etc., who struggled against the French in the latter half of the 19th century. Many of Saigon's revolutionary traditions are linked with the activities of famous Vietnamese leaders in their youth like President Ton Duc Thang, Tran Phu, the first Secretary-General of the Indochinese Communist Party, Nguyen Thi Minh Khai, the first Secretary of the Saigon-Cho Lon Party Committee,.... The city also witnessed the patriotic and revolutionary activities of many young people and pioneers : Ly Tu Trong, Le Van Tam, Tran Van On, Nguyen Van Troi, Vo Thi Thang, etc.

In 1911, the young teacher Nguyen Tat Thanh (later President Ho Chi Minh) left Phan Thiet for Saigon where he joined the "Admiral Latouche Treville" ship of the "Chargeurs Reunis" as an assistant cook under the name of Ba and left for France on June 5, in search of a way for national liberation.

SAIGON, THE HO CHI MINH CITY

The lotus lake at the Saigon Zoo.

Photo : VO AN NINH



Việt nam

PICTORIAL

PUBLISHED IN VIETNAMESE, RUSSIAN,
CHINESE, ENGLISH, FRENCH
AND SPANISH
XXIst YEAR
N° 202 - 1975

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you are !**

**And you can dance so gracefully
What school are you from ?**

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Two sisters - "Masters of Sports".

Photo : TRAN DINH

Back cover :

**A hammock on the Truong Son
Range.**

Photo : NGOC THONG

*Editorial Board : 79, Ly Thuong Kiet
Street, Hanoi. General Distributor :
Xunhasaba, 32, Hai Ba Trung Street,
Hanoi. Printed at the Tien Bo Printing
House, Hanoi. Director : Le Ba Thuyen.
Layout : Nguyen Phan. Index : 12655.*

TWO SISTERS — “MASTERS OF SPORTS”

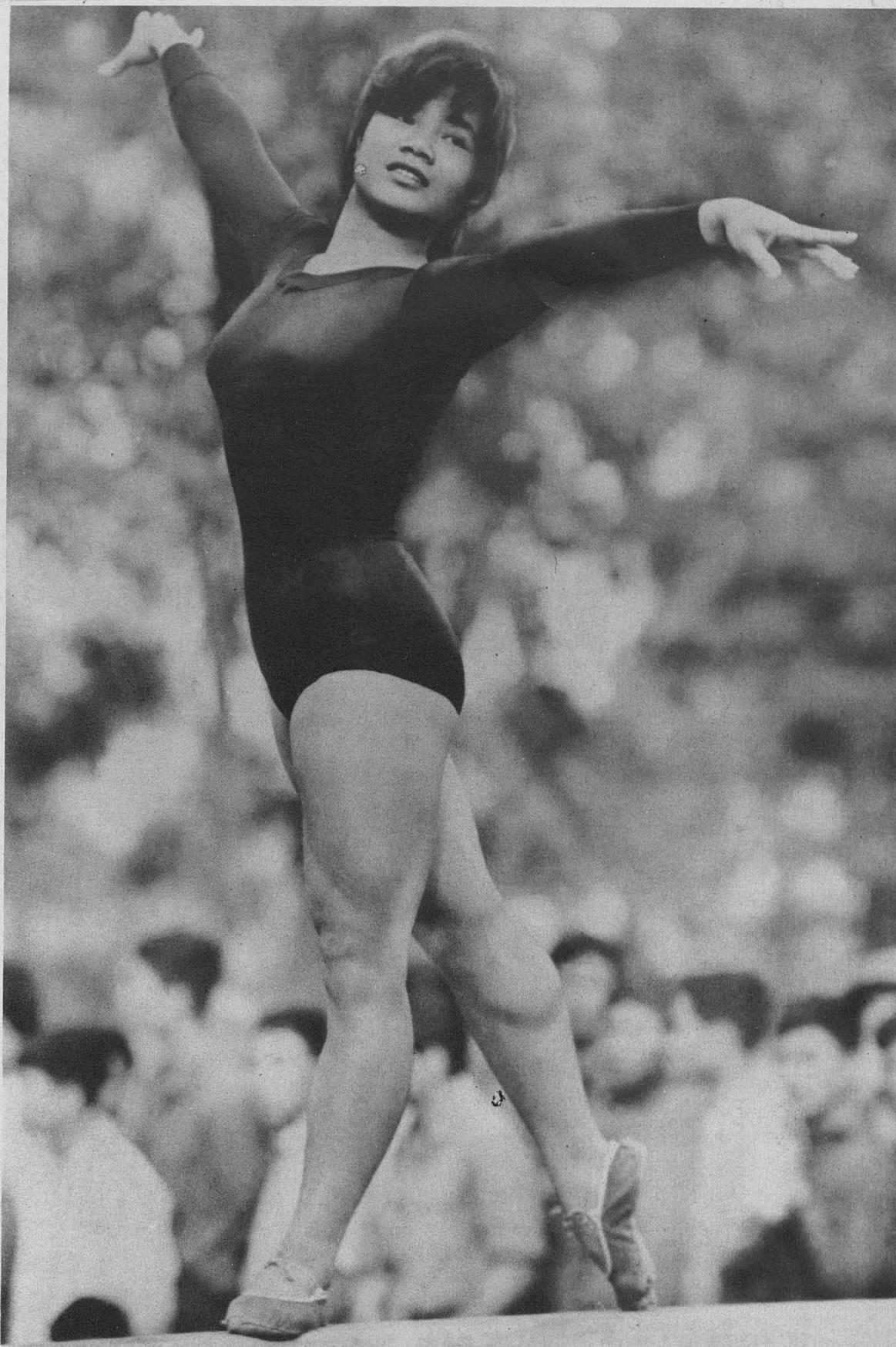
TRAN DINH

Gymnastics fans in the DRVN recently shared the joy of Phan Thanh Lien and her sister Phan Thanh Lan, two gymnasts native of South Viet Nam, who achieved the highest points at the All North Viet Nam 1974 Heavy Gymnastics Competition in the “Masters of Sports” category.

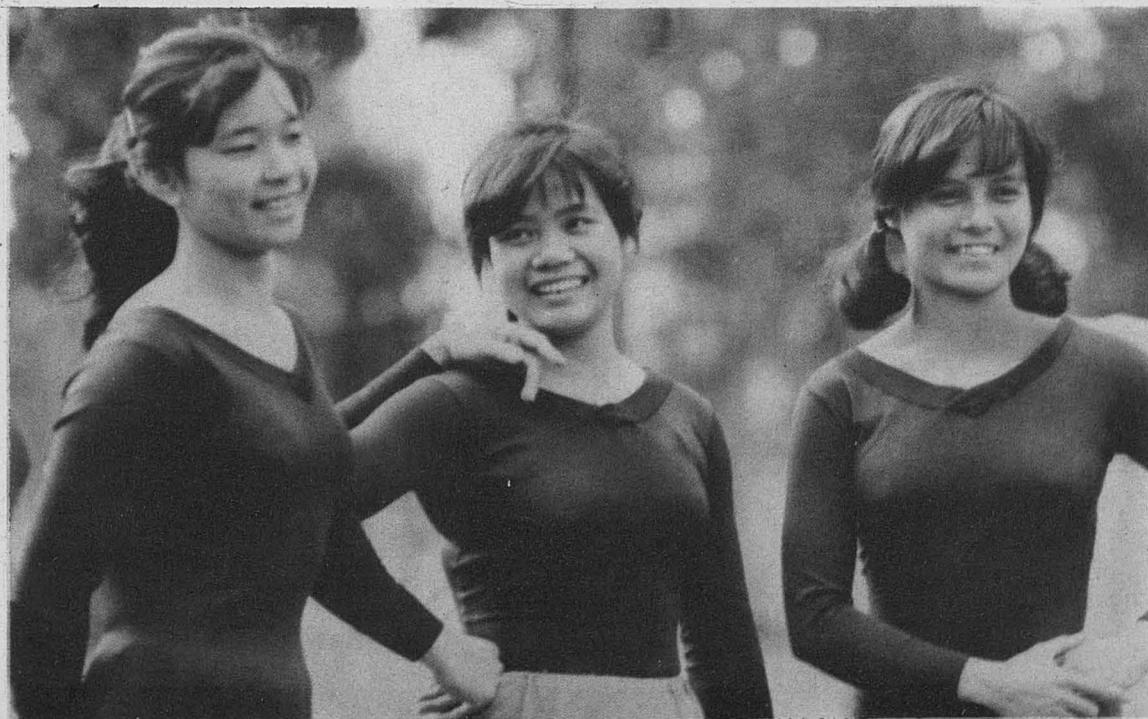
In fact it was no easy job for Lien and Lan to score such results. “At first, they showed no special gifts”, said one of their coaches, “only their patience and endurance gave reason for confidence. Being aware of their own weaknesses, Lien and Lan trained hard in all weathers and even during holidays and festive days. They earnestly learned from their companions and from books and periodicals, thus gradually improving their performances. Now they are two of the best ‘Masters of Sports’ at our Sports and Physical Training College.”

Phan Thanh Lan confided to us :

“Once, I dropped from a high bar and was seriously injured. I wept bitterly at the thought of being forced to leave forever the gymnasium and the career I was so keen on. In hospital I burned to leave, just like a combatant eager to return to the battlefield. When I tried to walk, I tottered like a child and tears came to my eyes each time my damaged leg hit against something. My companions’ encouragement, however, gave me strength. Finally, amidst the joy of all, I was back to normal. New days of hard



Phan Thanh Lan during a free-choice lesson on a balancing pole.



◀ *Phan Thanh Lien (centre), Phan Thanh Lan (right) and their colleagues before a training session.*

training began, with new enthusiasm. Thanks to my own efforts and the help of my trainers and companions, I succeeded in maintaining the ‘Master of Sports’ title at that year’s examination.”

Việt nam

